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# Regional Agricultural Development Program-South (RADP-S)

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Quarter I: October-December, FY 2016



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# Regional Agricultural Development Program-South (RADP-S)

Quarter I: October-December, FY 2016

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADA	Afghan Development Association
ATAR	Afghanistan Trade and Revenue
CDC	Community Development Council
CHA	Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
CLIN	Contract Line Item Number
DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
DDA	District Development Assembly
DOWA	Department of Women's Affairs
EEU	Enabling Environment Unit
FEG	Farmer Extension Group
HEASC	Helmand Etihad Agricultural and Seedling Company
HVC	High Value Crop
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
KIP	Key Implementing Partner
LRHHP	Large Ruminant Herd Health Package
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PICS	Purdue Improved Crop Storage
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PPU	Productivity and Production Unit
PSA	Public Short Announcement
RADP-S	Regional Agricultural Development Program-South
RADP-N	Regional Agricultural Development Program-North
RALS	Roots Agriculture and Livestock Services
LRHHP	Large Ruminant Herd Health Package
ToT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCU	Value Chain Unit
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
WIE	Women in the Economy

# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1.1 Program Description

The purpose of the Regional Agricultural Development Program-South (RADP-S) is to improve food and economic security for rural Afghans in the provinces of Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan. To accomplish this goal, RADP-S focuses on improving the productivity and profitability of the wheat, high value crops, and livestock value chains, while addressing policy, legal and regulatory constraints affecting value chain development. This agricultural development program supports the consolidation of licit economies to fuel sustainable long term economic growth, including providing alternatives to poppy cultivation.

The implementation approach of RADP-S dovetails with Afghan and U.S. government strategies in its focus on advancing food security, regenerating agribusiness, and increasing agriculture sector jobs and incomes. RADP-S aims to strengthen the capacity of producers, associations, traders, and agribusinesses to respond to market demands; facilitate lasting market linkages between value chain actors; and support an enabling environment that allows the private sector to thrive. The program places the Afghan private sector at the forefront of implementation and addresses key crosscutting issues of women's empowerment, agribusiness value chain facilitation, and alternative development in all facets of the program. Embodying USAID's vision for sustainable Afghan-led development, RADP-S lays the foundation for greater and more socially inclusive growth in the agricultural economy.

## 1.2 Summary of Key Accomplishments during Reporting Period

- RADP-S has increased the capacity of 16,051 farmers in improved wheat and high value crop production and productivity techniques, livestock care, and women farmers in basic business skills, vegetable cultivation, and greenhouse technology.
- Of 1,117 farmers surveyed in the quarter, 1,097 farmers reported applying new technologies or management practices as a result of RADP-S programming.
- In quarter one, 8,644 wheat farmers gained knowledge in post-harvest techniques to reduce grain loss. RADP-S master trainers educated farmers on identifying wheat maturity, harvesting technology, and storage techniques to prevent pest infiltration.
- RADP-S trained 7,051 high value crop farmers in improved post-harvest techniques for vegetables, orchard crops, and grapes. Farmers learned the optimal harvesting time for each crop, cooling techniques, packaging and transportation considerations, as well as sanitary drying and jamming processes.
- 400 women and girls graduated from the Agribusiness Empowerment Program. The 19 week course covered business operations, finance, vegetable cultivation, greenhouse technology, and nutrition. 34 percent of graduates reported increased self-efficacy.

- In quarter one, 31,765 participants attended RADP-S training events in wheat, high value crops, and livestock, along with project supported trainings in association management, the Agribusiness Empowerment Program, and Kabul and Kandahar agricultural fairs.
- RADP-S agricultural interventions impacted 6,420 households throughout 15 targeted districts of Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan provinces.
- In quarter one, out of a 1,117 surveyed farmers, 251 farmers reported growing high value crops as a result of RADP-S trainings.
- Out of 1,117 surveyed farmers, a reported 1,277 hectares are under improved technologies or management practices as a result of RADP-S programming.
- 1,117 farmers reported 284 hectares of land with increased high value crop production as a result of RADP-S trainings.
- RADP-S supported agribusinesses from year two and three reported a total of \$750,000 in sales of targeted commodities.
- One high value crop agribusiness and three livestock agribusinesses report operating more profitably as a result of RADP-S assistance.
- 353 households engaged in nutrition sensitive agricultural activities in quarter one, increasing their understanding of micro and macro nutrients, the benefits of various vitamins, and the importance of diversifying diets.
- RADP-S's Enabling Environment Unit has worked with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock to move the National Poultry Policy into Stage 2: Drafted and presented for public stakeholder presentation and the National Irrigation Policy into Stage 2: Drafted and presented for public stakeholder presentation.

### 1.3 Summary of Major Challenges and Lessons Learned

#### ***Coordination with District and Provincial Government***

In December, RADP-S units met directly with district and provincial level government officials to provide project updates and serve as direct points of contacts with the project. The RADP-S Production and Productivity Unit placed Provincial Field Agents in each province to monitor the quality of RADP-S trainings and attend government meetings in coordination with RADP-S key implementing partners. The coordination efforts link government officials with the project and increase idea exchanges on new demonstration farm locations and animal health interventions. The Agribusiness Empowerment Program in Helmand province met challenges with school principals who requested fees for allowing the program to take place in their schools. RADP-S's Gender Unit met with the Helmand Provincial Governor and Department of Education to stress the importance of the government's role in supporting women and girls' education, without

burdensome fees from the schools. The government officials agreed and have worked with the high schools to ensure smooth implementation.

#### ***Subcontractor Management in Helmand Province***

In October, RADP-S suspended all activities with Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA), the project's key implementing partner in Helmand province. RADP-S began direct implementation of all demonstration farm and gender training activities. Strong coordination with local community development councils and district officials was critical to continuing training activities. In November, RADP-S released requests for proposal for new partners in Helmand province. To mitigate future risks, RADP-S will diversify subcontractors in Helmand province and consider the same route for other provinces as well.

#### ***Increased Insecurity in Helmand Province***

During the reporting period, the security situation in Helmand province deteriorated as clashes between the Afghanistan Security National Forces and insurgent forces escalated in multiple RADP-S target districts. RADP-S mobile theatre performances were cancelled and other public events put on hold. RADP-S's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Unit were unable to conduct site visits as a result. Due in part to increased insecurity both in Helmand and Uruzgan provinces, RADP-S will engage a third party monitor in quarter two of year three.

#### ***Harvesting and Cultivation Impact on Training Numbers***

October and November marked the height of the pomegranate harvesting and winter wheat cultivation season. During this time, farmers spent time cultivating winter wheat on their own farms or as paid laborers on large pomegranate orchards, missing critical demonstration trainings. RADP-S community mobilizers were called on to visit farmers and stress the importance of these trainings for improving their own crops. RADP-S will continue to work with village elders to encourage farmers to attend trainings that increase their capacity on crops grown on their own farms.

#### ***Private Sector Participation at Outreach Events***

In October and November, the mobile theatre performances focused on livestock pox diseases. RADP-S selected performance locations near RADP-S supported VFUs and invited paravets to come speak after the performances to promote their businesses. The paravets were given an opportunity to stress the importance of vaccinations and their services. However, paravets were more interested in promotional opportunities that increased their sphere of influence. RADP-S will invite the paravets onto the radio programming as a result.

## 2. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

### 2.1 Measurable Results to Date

The table below provides an overview of outcome and output indicators employed to measure progress against contractual targets under each component, as well as annual progress against performance monitoring targets. Results for annual indicators will be provided at the conclusion of the Annual Household Survey in March 2016, and results reported in the FY 2016, Quarter Two Report. In the table, a dash indicates that information is not yet available for that indicator, whereas a zero indicates there has been no result.

No	Performance Indicator (Disaggregated by Sex Where Appropriate)	FY 2016 Target	Q1		Q2 Target	Q3 Target	Q4 Target	FY 2016 Results	Comments
			Target	Actual					
1	Percentage increase in household income from licit agriculture in targeted areas	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	Indicator will be determined from the AHHS, currently being awarded.
2	Number of farmers for whom wheat productivity has increased by a minimum of 20 percent. (Custom)	30,000	0	-	11,000	4,000	15,000	-	
3	Number of farmers for whom HVC productivity has increased by a minimum of 35 percent. (Custom)	25,000	0	-	10,000	4,000	11,000	-	Indicator will be determined from the AHHS, currently being awarded.
4	Number of farmers for whom the income from their livestock has increased by 20 percent (Custom)	14,000	0	-	1,000	4,000	9,000	-	
5	Number of farmers trained in improved post-harvesting techniques (Custom)	Wheat	11,000	8,644	4,000	4,000	4,000	8,644	
		HVC	6,600	7,051	2,000	4,950	4,950	7,051	
6	Number of women directly benefitting from project interventions (Custom)	4,900	100	31	300	2,500	2,000	31	
7	Number of Firms (small, medium, and large existing businesses) for whom the financial return increased at least 20 percent as result of the project assistance. (Custom)	Wheat	0	0	0	0	12	0	Actuals based on calculations related to grants awarded in 2015.
		HVC	0	1	0	0	30	1	
		Livestock	0	2	0	0	10	2	
8	Percentage Change [and metric ton value] in Annual Production of Key Crops as compared to non-beneficiary farmers (Custom)	5	0	-	5	0	5	-	Indicator will be determined from the AHHS, currently being awarded.
9	Number of individuals who have received US-government supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (4.5.2-7)	46,150	11,000	M = 16,020 F = 31 T = 16,051	10,000	11,000	14,150	16,051	Indicator represents new individuals to the program in the reporting period.

No	Performance Indicator (Disaggregated by Sex Where Appropriate)	FY 2016 Target	Q1		Q2 Target	Q3 Target	Q4 Target	FY 2016 Results	Comments
			Target	Actual					
10	Number of participants trained through project assisted training events	-	-	M = 23,490 F = 8,275 T = 31,765	-	-	-	31,765	Represents the participation of <b>all</b> RADP-S beneficiaries in all RADP-S training events.
11	Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (4.5.2-5)	41,535	9,900	Individual farmers = 1,097 Wheat = 819 HVC = 439 of the 1,117 farmers surveyed	9,000	9,900	12,735	Individual farmers = 1,097 Wheat = 819 HVC = 439 of the 1,117 farmers surveyed	Raw data from Q1 performed farm-level survey.
12	Number of households (HH) benefitted by agriculture and alternative development interventions in targeted areas (Custom)	18,420	8,360	6,420	8,360	4,400	5,660	12,674	Derived from Indicator 9.
13	Percentage of female participants in USG assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income, or employment). (Gender-2)	10	10	0.2%	10	10	10	0.2%	Derived from Indicator 6.
14	Percentage of women who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG supported training/ programming (Gender-3)	60	50	34% (171 : 508)	50	60	60	34% (171 : 508)	
15	Number of target households engaged in nutrition sensitive agriculture activities (Custom)	10,000	0	353	2,200	2,600	5,200	353	
16	Value of incremental sales by agribusinesses as a result of USG assistance (Custom)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
17	Value of sales of targeted commodities as a result of USG assistance (Custom)	Wheat	0	\$70,000	1	0	1	\$70,000	Sales recorded for the implemented grants and verified trade deals.
		HVC	0	\$140,000	5	0	20	\$140,000	

No	Performance Indicator (Disaggregated by Sex Where Appropriate)	FY 2016 Target		Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		FY 2016 Results	Comments
				Target	Actual	Target	Target	Target	Target	Target	Target		
		Livestock	1 million	0	\$540,000	1	0	0	1		\$540,000		
18	Number of private enterprises, producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations and community-based organizations (CBOs) that applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (4.5.2-42)	Wheat	7	0	4	0	5	2	4				Listed enterprises from implemented grants.
		HVC	27	0	2	0	14	13	2				
		Livestock	5	0	5	0	2	3	5				
		VFUs	20	0	0	10	5	5	0				
		Producer Orgs.	35	0	0	0	0	35	0				
19	Number of firms (excluding farms) or Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) engaged in agricultural and food security-related manufacturing and services now operating more profitably (at or above cost) because of USG assistance. (4.5.2-45)	95		0	Wheat 0 HVC 1 Livestock 3	10	25	60	4				Listed enterprises from implemented grants.
20	Number of farmers growing high value crops as a result of USG assistance (Custom)	16,000		0	251	2,000	4,000	10,000	251 of the 1,117 surveyed				
21	Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (4.5.2-2)	25,398		0	1,277 ha	7,619	7,619	10,159	1,277 ha				Raw data from Q1 performed farm level survey.
22	Number of hectares with increased high value crop production as a result of USG programs	1,280		0	0	384	384	512	0				
23	Annual rate of livestock mortality in the target livestock population	15.5		0	-	0	0	15.5	-				Indicator will be determined from the AHHS, currently being awarded.
24	Number of Policies/Regulations/Administrative Procedures in each of the following stages as a result of USG assistance in each case: Stage 1: Analyzed; Stage 2: Drafted and presented for public stakeholder consultation; Stage 3: Presented for legislation/debate; Stage 4: Passed/approved; Stage 5: Passed for which implementation has begun (4.5.1-24)	Obstacles	28	0	0	16	6	6	0				
		8 (out of 30)	7	0	0	3	3	1	0				
		Policy Drafts	4	0	2	0	2	2	2				
		Implementation Plan	4	0	0	0	2	2	0				

## 2.2 Key Activities Accomplished During the Quarter

### 2.2.1 Wheat Value Chain

#### **Increase the Production and Productivity of Wheat Farmers**

##### ***Increasing the Capacity of Wheat Farmers***

In quarter one, RADP-S trained 11,124 wheat farmers on production techniques aimed at increasing wheat yields. Farmers in southern Afghanistan plant winter wheat in November and December, and harvest between May and June, thus, making strategic planting decisions early in the season can have huge impact on the productivity of the wheat crop. In October, classroom sessions taught farmers the correct application of fertilizers and nutrients throughout the growing seasons. Farmers learned the potential of nitrogen to improve wheat yields and phosphorus to increase diseases resistance. Safe handling instructions for fertilizer and plant nutrients were also provided to avoid contamination of water sources and personal injury. These lessons allowed farmers to correctly calculate their fertilizer and nutrient needs before the planting season.



*Wheat sowing demonstration in Tirin Kot, Uruzgan.*

Wheat sowing began in November, correlating with on-farm demonstrations for wheat crop establishment. Master trainers gave hand-on demonstrations in creating proper drainage, plough depth for wheat seeds, and seedling rates, along with discussions on the advantages of row planting versus broadcasting. In December, classroom sessions on wheat water management stressed the plant's different water needs throughout the season and common problems as a result of both under watering and overwatering. Farmers in

southern Afghanistan tend to over-water their fields by flooding the site, resulting in uneven water distribution, uneven plant growth, increased salinization, and increasing pest and disease occurrences from surface runoff.

##### ***Introduction to New Wheat Technologies***

During the reporting period, RADP-S introduced farmers to new technologies on all 78 demonstration farmers meant to improve planting practices and increase wheat productivity. For wheat, improved wheat seeds and hand-held seeders were promoted to rural farmers unfamiliar with their benefit. Below are the new technologies introduced by RADP-S in quarter one:

- *Improved Wheat Seeds:* Improved wheat seeds have the potential to produce grain per crop, and demonstrate greater disease resistance when combined with correct cultivation practices. In year two, RADP-S demonstrated increased wheat yields of 80 to 100 percent with PBW-154 and Shesham Bagh-08 improved wheat seed varieties on all demonstration farms in combination with integrated pest management (IPM), water management, and plant nutrient considerations.
- *Hand-Held Seeders:* Hand-held seeders are a time and cost-effective technology that promotes row planting over the broadcast method. Hand-held seeders ensure the optimal seedling rate is applied in straight rows, allowing farmers to fully apply IPM strategies throughout the season and ensure all plants gain even exposure to sunlight.

As a result of RADP-S wheat trainings in quarter one, 819 farmers of 1,117 surveyed farmers, reported adopting improved management practices and new technologies on their own farms. The RADP-S Annual Household Survey will provide more information on the specific methods and technologies adopted by RADP-S beneficiary farmers, and a more accurate adoption rate will be reported in quarter two of year three.

#### ***Wheat Post-Harvest Messages to Reduce Losses***

Beginning in mid-October, RADP-S provided wheat post-harvest messages on all demonstration farms in every wheat session. As a lesson learned from year two, the post-harvest module is most likely to be missed because it occurs during the harvest season, when farmers are most busy on their own farms. Also understanding that not all farmers attend every training, RADP-S's strategy in year three is to ensure that post-harvest messages are provided at every opportunity. Investments during the growing season in various input applications and IPM can be lost due to poor post-harvest management practices. Farmers can lose the full potential of their wheat grain due to early harvesting, resulting in a grain high in moisture and likely to mold when stored. Wheat grain is also lost because farmers commonly store grain in burlap or woven plastic bags, both are which can be infiltrated by pest. RADP-S teaches methods to identify wheat maturity; the use of buckets, plastic bags, and tri-poly bags to reduce moisture and the threat of pests; the correct temperature to store wheat grain; and the use of wooden pallets to store grain off the ground. Proper grain storage also has important implications for food security, potentially preventing shortages throughout the year for rural families.

#### ***Wheat Nutrition Messages for All Farmers***

In December, RADP-S received approval from the Directorates of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan for wheat nutrition messages emphasizing the importance of a diverse diet consisting of carbohydrates, proteins, and vitamins. The nutritional benefits of wheat germ because of its high fiber, and role in maintaining healthy muscles

are cited in the nutrition messages. Due to the review and approval process, RADP-S will begin promoting wheat nutrition messaging in quarter two.

### **Increase the Commercial Viability of Wheat Agribusinesses**

#### ***Business Consultations with the Mosmir Improved Seed Company and Helmand Etihad Agricultural and Seedling Company***

The RADP-S Value Chain Unit held one-on-one business consultations with wheat agribusinesses interested in partnering with RADP-S. The Mosmir Improved Seed Company, based in Helmand province, wishes to create demonstration plots showcasing the company's improved wheat seeds, input supplies, and equipment. The company provided a concept note and budget for RADP-S review. RADP-S will invite the company to a Business Growth Conference in the second quarter to finalize a Business Growth Plan. RADP-S's Value Chain Unit also held consultation meetings with the Helmand Etihad Agricultural and Seedling Company (HEASC) which sells improved wheat and vegetable seeds in Lashkar Gah City. HEASC would like to establish demonstration plots in Nawa and Nad Ali districts, where they believe they can create a new customer base. A concept note and budget are under review. RADP-S will also invite HEASC to a Business Growth Conference in the second quarter to finalize a Business Growth Plan that provides holistic assistance for the company's promotional and marketing goals.

#### ***Promoting Sahrai Loy Kandahar Improved Seeds Company in Kabul and Kandahar AgFairs***



In quarter one, RADP-S provided support for booth and promotional material costs for the Sahrai Loy Kandahar Improved Seeds Company at the Kabul AgFair and the Kandahar National Exhibition and Economic Conference. Both opportunities allowed the company to meet directly with farmers and businesses interested in their improved seeds, farming equipment, inputs, and other products. In year two, RADP-S supported promotional trainings conducted by the company in Daman, Dand, and Arghandab districts of Kandahar province. RADP-S will continue the relationship in year three, inviting

the company to Business to Farmer Promotional Events on RADP-S demonstration farms to showcase their products and advertised their technical services.

#### ***Evaluation of Wheat Partnerships from Year Two***

During the reporting period, RADP-S evaluated the impact of its partnerships with four wheat companies in Kandahar City from year two. RADP-S provided cost-shared grants and technical

assistance to four companies on improved wheat seed training curriculum and promotional and marketing materials. The promotional trainings were conducted in quarters three and four of year two, and evaluated in quarter one of year three. Initial results show \$70,000 in sales of wheat from RADP-S supported companies. RADP-S will continue to evaluate wheat firms to determine profitability as a result of partnering with RADP-S.

#### **Opportunity to Engage with Wheat Traders**

RADP-S conducted trainings of trainers (ToTs) in December with master trainers on grain moisture testers. Grain moisture testers help farmers understand the grain quality desired in the marketplace. If farmers supply grain that has a high moisture content, the grain will most likely mold when stored, however, very low moisture levels lead to poor quality grain. This technology, however, is most useful for wheat traders who use informal methods, like grain tasting, to determine the moisture content of the grain. Inaccurate estimates means grain loss for the wheat trader. RADP-S will partner with wheat traders in quarter two to introduce this technology and work with traders interested in investing in grain moisture testers.

#### **Quarterly Wheat Agribusiness Activities Review**

During the reporting period, RADP-S engaged with six wheat agribusinesses through business consultations, participation in AgFairs, and for upcoming promotional opportunities on RADP-S demonstration farms. In January of quarter two, wheat input supply companies RADP-S partnered with in year two, will lead Business to Farmer Promotional Events on Kandahar demonstration farms highlighting wheat cultivation techniques and the products and services their businesses can provide for local farmers.

<b>FY 2016, Quarter One Wheat Agribusiness Activities</b>						
<b>Wheat Agribusiness</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>Business Growth Area</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Estimated Value of Sales</b>	<b>RADP-S Support</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
Mosmir Improved Seed Company	Helmand	Promotions	Concept note for improved wheat seed demonstration plots with company reviewed.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to review budget revisions.
Helmand Etihad Agricultural and Seedling Company	Helmand	Promotions	Reviewed concept note and budget for improved wheat seed demonstration plots.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist and HEASC to follow up on budget revisions.
Sadaqat Sahil Improved Seed Company (SISSCO)	Kandahar	Promotions	Evaluating impact of year two partnership and in discussions on year three activities.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S connected with company on business to farmer training event.
Ahmad Baryali Improved Seeds Company	Kandahar	Promotions	Evaluating impact of year two partnership and in discussions on year three activities.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S connected with company on business to farmer training event.

Sardar Zai Improved Seeds Company	Kandahar	Promotions	Evaluating impact of year two partnership and in discussions on year three activities.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S connected with company on business to farmer training event.
Sahrai Loy Kandahar Improved Seeds Company	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S connected with company on business to farmer training event.

## Lessons Learned During Implementation

### ***Understanding Roll Over Effects for Farmer Knowledge***

From year two to year three, RADP-S demonstration farms have improved their soil quality as a result of practices implemented in year two. A core lesson taught later in the year is crop rotation practices that enrich soil nutrients and positively impact soil compaction. Due to year two practices, planting alfalfa in fallow wheat fields, these types of lessons can be presented on earlier in the year, allowing RADP-S to provide farmers with a better understanding of roll over effects from season to season as a result of implementing new management practices. RADP-S will utilize this advantage in its high value crops trainings as well, highlighting increased productivity not only from current practices, but as a culmination of sustained practices.

### Major Planned Activities for Next Quarter

- Wheat Trainings in: IPM and weed control classroom sessions and on-farm demonstrations and wheat plant nutrition on-farm demonstrations
- Wheat Post-Harvest Messages on all Demonstration Farms
- Wheat Input Supplier Business to Farmer Promotional Events on Kandahar Province Demonstration Farms
- Business Growth Conference in Kandahar and Helmand with Small and Medium Wheat Enterprises
- Introduce Wheat Grain Testers to Wheat Traders

## 2.2.2 High Value Crops Value Chain

### **Increase the Production and Productivity of High Value Crop Farmers**

#### ***Increasing Farmer Capacity in Orchard, Vegetable, and Vineyard Cultivation***

During the reporting period, RADP-S increased the capacity of 8,344 high value crop farmers in orchard, vegetable, and vineyard cultivation. Training sessions correlated with the crop calendar and promoted an understanding of soil qualities in southern Afghanistan, orchard and vegetable establishment, nutrient needs, and crop maintenance. Below are the trainings topics for quarter one in high value crops:

High Value Crop Trainings in Quarter One		
Orchard Crops	October	<b>Orchard Establishment Demonstrations-</b> site selection with water and road access, soil pH levels, row layouts, and orchard crop varieties
	November	<b>Plant Nutrition Classroom-</b> sixteen macro/micro essential elements and their specific roles in growth and production, proper time, rate, and application of fertilizer, animal manure for improving soil structure, increases nutrients, aids in water absorption, and regulates soil temperature
	December	<b>Orchard Maintenance Classroom-</b> removal of low, dead, and diseased branches to encourage healthy growth and the best time for pruning, critical for improving fruit quality and size.
Vegetable Crops	October	<b>Greenhouse Establishment Demonstrations-</b> greenhouse installation techniques, temperature, humidity, and light controls for extending the growing season, drip irrigation, and other water sources.
	November	<b>Vegetable Nutrition Classroom-</b> the importance of nitrogen for plant growth and production of new shoots, application of fertilizer, and use of animal manure
	December	<b>Vegetable Nutrition Demonstrations-</b> correct application methods and rates for fertilizer, animal manure, and various nutrients
Vineyard	October	<b>IPM and Weed Control Classroom-</b> pest and disease scouting and the diagnosis and treatment of vineyard diseases including fungus, anthracnose, downy mildew, and powdery mildew
	November	<b>Vineyard Maintenance Classroom-</b> pruning of leaves and dead shoots to ensure even growth, continued water irrigation needs
	December	<b>Vineyard Nutrition Classroom-</b> role of different nutrients and emphasis on the role of phosphorus in root growth and potassium in increasing disease resistance

### ***Introduction of Solar Dehydrators in Business to Farmer Promotional Events***

In December, RADP-S connected the Da Waghaz Construction Company to farmers in Zabul province through the project's Qalat demonstration farm. The Da Waghaz Construction Company is based in Kandahar and provides high quality solar dehydrators to RADP-S target provinces. In southern Afghanistan, fruits and vegetables are sun dried on a flat surface, exposing the fruit to dust, dirt, and insects and reducing their value in the marketplace. Solar dehydrators place fruits and vegetables on a covered tray which dried underneath a glass cover,



*Solar dehydrator demonstration on Qalat farm.*

providing a sanitary environment that is not easily infiltrated by pests. High value crops commonly grown in southern Afghanistan, like grapes, figs, apricots, and plums, lend themselves well to drying and have high demand in local and regional marketplaces. In the absence of stable electricity

and cold storage facilities, drying fruits and vegetable represents a unique market opportunity for farmers.

The promotional event was the first time many farmers had seen a solar dehydrator, which are more commonly used in the north. All farmers were given contact information for the Da Waghaz Construction Company, should they be interested in utilizing the technology on their own farms.

*"Showcasing solar dehydrators is a great step forward for our rural communities and farmers."*

*- DAIL Director, Zabul Province*

Representatives from the Zabul DAIL and provincial development assembly were also present for the demonstration and were impressed with the potential for the use of solar dehydrators by a wider audience.

### **Introduction of New High Value Crop Technologies for Winter Vegetables**

RADP-S introduced high value crop farmers to seedling trays, low tunnels, and improved cool season vegetable seeds in November. RADP-S is promoting six vegetable crops for the winter growing season: red radish, spinach, onions, yellow carrots, cauliflower, and garlic cloves. All varieties are common to southern Afghanistan, have a viable market, and are easily stored and transported, meaning they not have high cold storage needs. RADP-S promoted the use of improved vegetable seeds which have the potential to produce a higher quality crop along with planting in seedling trays. Seedling trays allow seeds to germinate in a controlled environment, especially when grown under low tunnels able to mitigate colder temperatures. In January, RADP-S anticipates connecting private sector enterprises providing low tunnel technology demonstration farms to ensure farmers are aware of the where resources are available and their cost in the market place.

As a result of, RADP-S high value crop trainings in quarter one, 439 farmers of 1,117 surveyed farmers, reported adopting improved management practices and new technologies on their own farms. The RADP-S Annual Household Survey will provide more information on the methods and technologies adopted by RADP-S beneficiary farmers, and a more accurate adoption rate will be reported in the quarter two of year three.

### **High Value Crop Post-Harvest Messaging at All Training Events**

In the first quarter, RADP-S introduced post-harvest messaging to all high value crop farmers in order to stress the importance of post-harvest handling to reduce crop loss and ultimately household income. During the season, harvesting times reduce training attendance on demonstration farms, however, this new approach for year three provides important information well advance of the harvesting season. Below are key considerations for high value crops during the post-harvest stage:

High Value Crop	Post-Harvest Messages
Orchard	Proper fruit harvesting methods and times, mechanical cooling techniques, box and plastic packaging materials, sanitary drying techniques
Vegetable	Harvesting techniques, wax application, methods to extend shelf-life, improved packaging materials

Vineyard	Harvesting times and methods for grapes, cooling techniques, sulfur pads and improved packaging, sanitary methods for drying grapes
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### ***High Value Crop Nutrition Messages for All Farmers***

In December, RADP-S received approval from the Directorates of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan for high value crop nutrition messages emphasizing the importance of a diversifying diets through fruits and vegetables. The nutrition messages provide information on Vitamin A, Vitamin C, zinc, antioxidants, magnesium, and potassium, and the types of fruits and vegetables containing high levels of each. Nutrition messages allow Afghan families to actively take steps to prevent malnutrition, especially important for pregnant women and children under five.

### **Increase the Commercial Viability of High Value Crop Agribusinesses**

#### ***Roots Agriculture and Livestock Services Company Promotional Trainings***

During the reporting period, the Roots Agriculture and Livestock Services (RALS) Company prepared a 2,000 square meter demonstration site for upcoming promotional trainings in orchard cultivation. The company will promote its high density saplings to farmers in Dand, Daman, Arghandab, and Panjwai districts of Kandahar province. The RALS Company began mobilizing farmers in December by meeting with the Kandahar DAIL and District Development Assemblies (DDAs), Community Development Councils (CDCs), and community shuras to inform village elders of the upcoming events and requested information on local farmers who would most benefit from the training. The promotional trainings will begin in February.

#### ***Business Consultations with the Negin Sang Commercial Pvt Ltd Company***

During the reporting period, the RADP-S Value Chain Unit met with the Negin Sang Commercial Pvt Ltd Company, located in Kandahar City. The company is interested in working with women's associations to produce fig jam. The company believes there is local demand for fig jam, currently being met by imported products. RADP-S is working with the company to refine a concept note and connect the company to RADP-S's network of women's associations.

#### ***Business-to-Business Trade Deals at the Kabul and Kandahar AgFair***

RADP-S supported twelve high value crop agribusinesses and associations during the reporting period to attend the Kabul AgFair and the Kandahar National Exhibition and Economic Conference. The agribusinesses invest in their own travel and accommodation costs, while RADP-S supports the cost of booth space and banners. Both events allowed businesses to interact closely with farmers and other agribusinesses. The events allow businesses to explore new technologies offered in the marketplace, promote their products directly to customers, and make business-to-business connections.

As a result of the Kabul and Kandahar promotional opportunities, trade deals between several RADP-S supported businesses were made. Many of these deals were for initial product samples, with RADP-S facilitating further business relationships as they develop organically. Below are the trade deals which resulted from participation in the Kabul AgFair and Kandahar National Exhibition:

- *Abozar Agribusiness Women Company and Nejat Exporting Company:* RADP-S facilitated a business-to-business meeting between the Abozar Agribusiness Women Company and Nejat Exporting Company during the Kabul AgFair. The Abozar Agribusiness Women Company sold 90 kilograms of figs to the Nejat Exporting Company for 42,313 AFN (\$651). The Nejat Exporting Company will connect with Abozar Agribusiness Women Company if satisfied with the quality of the figs provided.
- *Farah Farhat Faizi Agricultural Products Processing Company and Abozar Agribusiness Women Company:* During the Kandahar National Exhibition, the Farah Farhat Company sold 11,600 AFN (\$178) worth of jams and pickles to the Abozar Agribusiness Women Company. The Abozar Agribusiness Women Company also sold 4,000 AFN (\$62) worth of dried curd to the Farah Farhat Company. Both companies will evaluate how the products fit in with what they currently supply.
- *Abozar Agribusiness Women Company and Abdul Hakim Dried Fruit Company:* The Abozar Agribusiness Women Company sold 450 kilograms of Abjosh raisins worth 202,500 AFN (\$3,115) to the Abdul Hakim Dried Fruit Company during the Kandahar National Exhibition. RADP-S will follow up on any other deals made a result of this business-to-business linkage.

In total, RADP-S assisted in facilitating 260,413 AFN (\$4,006) in trade deals for high value crop agribusinesses. The success of women's micro-enterprises during the promotional events highlight the importance of face-to-face meetings that are not often available for women-owned businesses in the south, given movement restrictions and cultural sensitivities.

#### **Quarterly High Value Crops Agribusiness Activities Review**

The table below provides an overview of RADP-S supported businesses in quarter one. RADP-S will formalize relationships with the companies below through Business Growth Conferences in quarter two and Business Growth Plans which will outline clear growth strategies.

FY 2016, Quarter One High Value Crop Agribusiness Activities						
HVC Agribusiness	Province	Business Growth Area	Activity	Estimated Value of Sales	RADP-S Support	Next Steps
Roots Agriculture	Kandahar	Promotions	RALS mobilized new farmers for promotional trainings to begin in quarter two.	N/A	Cost-shared grant and	RADP-S and RALS to coordinate upcoming

Livestock Services					Technical Assistance	promotional trainings in February 2016.
Kandahari Women Handicraft and Agriculture Company	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to invite to growth strategy session for associations.
Negin Sang Commercial Pvt Ltd	Kandahar	Promotions	RADP-S provided technical review of Negin Sang's proposed activities with pomegranate producers and women's associations in southern Afghanistan.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist following up on revised budget and scope.
Afghan Women Self-Sufficient Association	Kabul	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kabul AgFair.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to invite to quarter two Business Growth Conference.
Amin Karim Box Factory	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to invite to quarter two Business Growth Conference.
Zarghon Badlooon Agriculture Company	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to invite to quarter two Business Growth Conference.
Farah Farhat Faizi Agricultural Products Processing Company	Kabul	Promotions and firm-to-firm linkages	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition. RADP-S facilitated business-to-business meeting.	11,600 AFN	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to invite to quarter two Business Growth Conference.
Hikmat Ubaid Fresh Fruit Trading Company	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to invite to quarter two Business Growth Conference.
Afghan Red Pomegranate Company	Kandahar	Promotions and firm-to-firm linkage	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition. RADP-S facilitated a business to business linkage with the Kehnos Non-Alcoholic Beverages Company.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to invite to quarter two Business Growth Conference.
Abozar Agribusiness Women Company	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	203,813 AFN	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to invite to quarter two Business Growth Conference.
Zanan Tawanmand Social Company	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to invite to quarter two Business Growth Conference.

Daman and Dand Districts Farmers Association	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to invite to quarter two Business Growth Conference.
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## Lessons Learned During Implementation

### ***Moving in the Right Direction***

RADP-S is satisfied with our selection of winter vegetables, which is performing in a superior fashion to the previous year. Likewise, the use of low tunnels as a cost-effective means to extend the growing season, and alfalfa as a simple and effective nitrogen fixing rotation crop following wheat. RADP-S promoted intercropping of alfalfa with vine crops has also been seen to have an additional benefit as a trap for insects that—in the absence of the alfalfa - would be more inclined to attack the vine crop.

### Major Planned Activities for Next Quarter

- Solar Dehydrator Business to Farmer Promotional Events in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan
- T-trellising Business to Farmer Promotional Events in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan
- Low Tunnel Business to Farmer Promotional Events in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan
- Drip Irrigation Business to Farmer Promotional Events in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan
- Hand-held Seeder Business to Farmer Promotional Events in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan
- Sapling Business to Farmer Promotional Events in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan
- Begin high value crop classroom curriculum in Marja and Garmsir districts of Helmand province
- Promotional trainings the Roots Agriculture and Livestock Services Company promotional trainings
- Business Growth Conference in Kandahar and Helmand with Small and Medium HVC Enterprises
- Classroom and on-farm demonstration trainings for orchard, vineyard, and vegetable crops

## 2.2.3 Livestock Value Chain

### **Increase Incomes from Livestock**

#### ***Farmer Extension Groups Conclude Large Ruminant Herd Health Package***

During the reporting period, farmer extension groups (FEGs) completed the six month large ruminant herd health package. The large ruminant herd health training began in year two, with

each FEG cohort continuing into year three. In quarter one, 1,206 farmers, 572 men and 634 women, participated in the trainings. The following topics were covered: controlling and preventing bloat, rumen acidosis, preventing metritis, cattle infertility and abortion, feeding schedules, and cattle housing. In each training, RADP-S key implementing partner Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA), emphasized services available to farmers at local veterinary field units (VFUs).

### ***Training of Trainers on Poultry Extension***

In December, DCA conducted ToTs on poultry extension for its Extension Officers. Poultry extension trainings covered chicken raising, healthy chicken farming system, vaccinations, medication, and feed schedules. FEGs in quarter two will begin the poultry extension package. The poultry extension package will target women beneficiaries interested farming with the potential for an FEG to form a producer group able to sell for small scale commercial production. Because of the low cost of input supplies for poultry raising and women's traditional role in animal husbandry, chicken raising is a potentially economically viable avenue for women to enter the marketplace.

## **Reduce Livestock Mortality**

### ***Livestock Health Services***

RADP-S supported veterinary field units (VFUs) provided animal health services to farmers in all 15 target districts of Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan. During the reporting period, VFUs vaccinated a total of 224,190 animals against common diseases like enterotoxaemia, hemorrhagic septicemia, foot and mouth disease, and Newcastle disease. VFUs provided medications to 139,984 animals and provided other animal health services to 2,309 animals. VFU paravets regularly attend refresher trainings to ensure they are up-to-date on new veterinary practices. In addition, VFUs are monitored by DCA to ensure they are delivering quality care and maintain a safe, sanitary work environment.

### ***Refresher Training for Paravets***

DCA refresher trainings in at the Kandahar City Training Facility are attended by paravets and DAIL Veterinary Department extension officers. The refresher trainings provide information on identifying and preventing outbreaks of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza; preventive measures against highly contagious pathogens; immunology and vaccinology; basic clinical skills; and clinical pharmacology. Paravets visit animal pharmacies to understand which medications and how much to prescribe, as well as hands-on training with animals on local farms.

## **Increasing the Commercial Viability of Livestock Agribusinesses**

### ***Completion of Livestock Promotional Trainings***

During the reporting period, three livestock companies completed grant activities awarded in year two. The Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughterhouse employees completed a 10 day course on chicken cleaning, sorting, packing, and hygienic practices during the slaughtering process. RADP-S provided technical assistance in evaluating consultants able to evaluate the company's equipment, sanitation standards, and procedures. The Khurasan Cub Fish Production Company

concluded promotional trainings in October, training 25 men and 25 women interested in fingerling production.

The Ahmad Shahi Agriculture Chicken Farm led exposure visits to broiler farms and poultry companies in Nangahar province for its staff and 26 contracted broiler producers. The six day visit provided an overview of modern, highly mechanized chicken raising and processing at the SPFA Poultry Farm Association, Al Khedmat Poultry Services, Insaf Poultry Services, Lemar Afghan Poultry Services, and Gul Hsan Poultry Services. Farmers were introduced to the newest feeding and drinking equipment, various feeds, and adoptable hygienic controls to lower the mortality rate for chicks.

#### ***Trade Deals between the Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughter House and Hikmat Poultry Feed Company***

During the Kandahar National Exhibition and Economic Conference, RADP-S facilitated a business-to-business linkage between the Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughter House and Hikmat Poultry Feed Company. The Afghan Sadaqat Company currently imports chicken feed at 2,400 AFN (\$37) per 50 kilogram bag from Pakistan. The Hikmat Poultry Feed Company sells 50 kilogram bags of chicken feed at 1,260 AFN per bag (\$18), representing a potentially large cost savings for Afghan Sadaqat. In November, the Afghan Sadaqat Company purchased 226 bags of feed, totaling 284,760 AFN (\$4,381). The Afghan Sadaqat Company found the feed favorable for its chicks and strengthened its relationship with the Hikmat Poultry Feed Company in December, purchasing 516,600 AFN (\$7,948) worth of feed. In total, \$12,329 in trade deals between the two companies was concluded during the reporting period.

#### ***Quarterly Livestock Agribusiness Activities Review***

During the reporting period, RADP-S engaged with eight livestock companies through promotional grant activities, business-to-business meetings, the Kabul AgFair, and the Kandahar National Exhibition and Economic Conference. In quarter two, RADP-S will engage with these companies to completed Business Growth Plans.

<b>FY 2016, Quarter One Livestock Agribusiness Activities</b>						
<b>Livestock Agribusiness</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>Business Growth Area</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Estimated Value of Sales</b>	<b>RADP-S Support</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
Roots Agricultural and Livestock Services Company	Kandahar	Promotions	Promotional trainings for farmers on high density saplings and orchard cultivation.	N/A	Cost-Shared Grant and Technical Assistance	Company to continue farmer mobilization in January.
Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughterhouse	Kandahar	Business-to-Business Linkage	Supported business-to-business linkage with the Hikmat Poultry Feed Company	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up other B2B opportunities.
Hikmat Poultry Feed Company	Kandahar	Firm-Firm Linkage	RADP-S facilitated a business-to-business connection with	801,360 AFN	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up other B2B opportunities.

			the Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughterhouse.			
Mostamand Etihad Pvt Ltd	Kandahar	TBD	Evaluating impact of year two partnership and in discussions on year three activities.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to hold follow-up meeting.
Ahmad Shahi Agriculture Chicken Farm	Kandahar	Promotions and firm-to-firm linkages	Supported exposure visits to poultry businesses in Jalalabad City of Nangarhar province.	N/A	Cost-shared Grant and Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialists to follow-up on impact of promotional trainings and site visits.
Rahat Company Ltd	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Cost Support	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up on any Kandahar Exhibition linkages.
Yaran Ice Cream	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Cost Support	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up on any Kandahar Exhibition linkages.
Afghan Fatimi Poultry and Dairy Production	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Cost Support	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up on any Kandahar Exhibition linkages.

## Lessons Learned During Implementation

### **VFU Opportunity, KIP Challenge**

Livestock activities in RADP-S are a great opportunity and an implementation challenge. The great opportunity comes in harnessing and promoting the VFU model to create economic impact while disseminating important animal health services. As economic entities, these organizations are ripe for value chain facilitation within the context of poultry and dairy value chains that frequently involve wrap-around market linkages through which medium sized companies provide inputs and purchase outputs from smaller producers that they also provide production support to. The implementation challenge has manifested itself in monitoring challenges and missed implementation timelines as RADP-South's livestock KIP struggles to implement evenly, to engage governmental structures consistently, and to understand RADP-S needs and expectations. This challenge is RADP-South's responsibility to resolve, though it has ramifications for the remainder of the RADP platform which utilizes the same subcontractor. During the next quarter, RADP-S will create focused monitoring of the activities of this KIP and work with them to positively resolve their implementation challenges or diminish the amount that the project partners with them in achieving our deliverables.

### **Major Planned Activities for Next Quarter**

- Conduct FEG trainings on poultry extension

- Identify new FEG locations through consultations with district governors, community development councils, and district development assemblies
- Conduct a Fodder Bank Assessment in Zabul Province
- Select Basic Veterinary Workers for training
- Select women for 10 Self-Help Groups engaged in micro-level production
- Business Growth Conference for Kandahar with Small and Medium Livestock Enterprises

## 2.2.4 Enabling Environment

### ***Stakeholder Consultations on the National Public Private Partnership Policy and National Livestock Development Policy***

During the reporting period, the National Public Private Partnership (PPP) Policy and the National Livestock Development Policy were shared with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL). Several consultation meetings were held during the reporting period, with MAIL requests to identify and remove PPP bottlenecks and add in provisions on veterinary services in the National Livestock Development Policy. Both policies are pending with the Technical Deputy Minister of MAIL.

### ***National Poultry Policy in Stage 2: Drafted and presented for stakeholder consultation***

The Enabling Environment Unit held a series of consultations with the MAIL Livestock Directorate to revise the National Poultry Policy. Revisions to the policy include a tax and tariff structure that promotes poultry production, garnering private sector investment in poultry research, vocational training for poultry workers, and the establishment of a Poultry Development Association. The policy proposes reducing tariffs on poultry inputs to boost poultry production, this will require close coordination between MAIL and the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce and Industries. The National Poultry Policy is in Stage 2, and with the Technical Deputy Minister of MAIL for review.

### ***National Irrigation Policy in Stage 2: Drafted and presented for stakeholder consultation***

During the reporting period, the EEU reviewed the National Irrigation Policy at the request of MAIL. Utilizing previous constraints analysis conducted on existing irrigation policy, the EEU provided recommendations on promoting efficient water usage, encourage strong governance practices, improve water usage, and promote safe agrochemical application. The National Irrigation Policy has important implications for RADP-S target districts that are water stressed as a result of upstream water practices. RADP-S will continue to advise on the policies as requested from MAIL.

### ***National Rice Production Policy Drafting Sessions***

In December, RADP-S attended three consultation meetings on the National Rice Production Policy along with MAIL Heads of Extension, Irrigation, Research, and Plan, Policy, and Strategic

Coordination. Initial discussions on the policy itself focused on rice extension and research, ministerial coordination, the role of private sector seed suppliers, and gender considerations in rice production. During the consultation meetings, RADP-S was tasked with creating the strategic template to be used in the development of the rice policy. The strategic template emphasizes social and economic influences and impacts of each potential intervention.

### Lessons Learned During Implementation

#### ***Coordination: Critical and Time Intensive***

Throughout the first quarter of FY 2016, RADP-S provided advisory services to the minister of MAIL, drafted policy at the request of MAIL, and coordinated constraints analysis across RADP programs in the north and the west. These activities built substantially on the work of the previous year while involving a large group of new collaborators. For example, constraints study goals were agreed to by RADP-N and RADP-W in September. During this process it became clear that new advisors at the office of the minister needed to be educated on the purpose and process of constraints analysis and that their buy in was a central issue in the completion of the work. Initial misunderstandings were resolved through dialogue. As a result of this process, it became clear that decision making within MAIL involves a careful and time consuming process of consensus building. Policy work that has been completed in FY15 has been revisited in FY16 and continues to require ongoing engagement. An example of this would be the Livestock Policy, for which a broad consensus had been reached during FY15 but which was upended by the Minister during this past quarter as the Minister called for a Livestock conference to gather further input. Over-all, the continual lesson throughout this process is to be as engaged as possible in dialogue surrounding the advancement of initiatives relevant to RADP-S and to be transparent and inclusive in dialogue going forward.

### Major Planned Activities for Next Quarter

- Coordinate constraints analysis review with RADP-North and RADP-West
- Consultation meetings on the National Rice Production Policy
- National Livestock Conference to gain further insight on the National Livestock Policy

## 2.3 Cross-cutting Themes

### 2.3.1 Gender

#### **Quarterly Progress against Indicators**

In quarter one of year three, RADP-S did not meet gender targets due to the nature of the gender programming. The Agribusiness Empowerment Program began in September of year two, as a result, women beneficiaries began the program in year two and were counted against year two indicators. The 400 women in the program moved as a cohort through the 19 week training and were not counted in Indicator 9, as new individuals to the program for year three. The Indicator 9 result also accounts for the low percentage in Indicator 13. Participants in the Agribusiness Empowerment Program completed the course in December, and of the 508 women surveyed, 34 percent reported an increase in self-efficacy.

Ind #	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR (Indicator Code)	Unit of Measurement	Quarter 1, FY 2016 Q1 Target	Quarter 1, FY 2016 Results		Gender Breakup			Life of Project		COMMENTS
				Q1 Actuals	% Achievement	M	F	Total	LOP Target	LOP Actual	
6	Number of women directly benefiting from project interventions (Custom)	# of Women	100	31	31%	N / A	31	31	20,700	3,156	
9	Number of individuals who have received US-government supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (4.5.2-7)	# of trainees	11,000	16,051	146%	16,020	31	16,051	124,300	38,148	Represents new individuals. 400 women beneficiaries began the Agribusiness Empowerment Program in quarter four of year two, and are not counted in quarter one of year three., though the program concluded in FY 2016.
10	Number of participants trained through project assisted training events	# of participants	-	31,765	-	23,491	8,274	31,765	-	164,276	Represents all RADP-S beneficiaries in all training events.
11	Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (4.5.2-5)	# of farmers	9,900	1,097	11%	1,097	0	1,097	113,000	Individual farmers = 1,097	Data from Q1 farm-level survey.

Ind #	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR		Unit of Measurement	Quarter 1, FY 2016	Quarter 1, FY 2016 Results		Gender Breakup			Life of Project		COMMENTS	
	(Indicator Code)				Q1 Actuals	% Achievement	M	F	Total	LOP Target	LOP Actual		
												Wheat = 819 HVC = 439  of the 1,117 farmers surveyed	
13	Percentage of female participants in USG assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income, or employment). (Gender-2)		% expressed whole #	10%	0.2%	2%	16,020	31	16,051	15	8% (3,156F 38,148)	Derived from Indicator number 6.	
14	Percentage of women who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG supported training/ programming (Gender-3)		% expressed whole #	50	34%	68%	N / A	171	508	70	49%		
15	Number of target households engaged in nutrition sensitive agriculture activities (Custom)		# of HH	0	353	-	N / A	353	353	28,280	1%		

### ***Agribusiness Empowerment Program***

During the reporting period, 400 women and girls graduated from the Agribusiness Empowerment Program, implemented in six girls' high schools and four provincial Departments of Women's Affairs (DOWAs) throughout the RADP-S target provinces. During the 19 week course, women and girls were introduced to basic financial management skills, budgeting, accessing finance, vegetable cultivation and harvesting, nutrition, and greenhouse technology. The course concludes with the women and girls presenting business plans. Equipped with basic



business and vegetable cultivation skills, RADP-S will work to connect the students to women's associations, women-owned enterprises, the upcoming Kandahar DOWA Demonstration Farm, and other USAID projects, like the Promote Women in the Economy project. RADP-S will work with the graduates to encourage linkages to private enterprises where possible in order to promote economic opportunities.

The program has sparked success in girls' high schools in Kandahar and Zabul, where girls have pooled resources to sell snack at their high schools. In Uruzgan province, one woman has used her knowledge of input costs and budgeting to start selling sandwiches at a local high school and clinic; her success is described in Annex 6. 7.

### ***Kandahar DOWA Demonstration Farm Kick-Off Meeting***

In December, the RADP-S Gender Unit and Production and Productivity Unit met with the Kandahar DOWA Demonstration Farm contractor. The kick-off meeting solidified timelines for the construction activities, which are to be completed by March. In December, the construction company finalized the site layout and land leveling. RADP-S will hold a groundbreaking ceremony in January with representatives from DOWA and the provincial government.

### ***Association Management Workshop***

RADP-S conducted an Association Management Workshop during the reporting period to increase the capacity of women producers. The workshop focused on the basic structure of an association, leadership roles, recruiting members, and outreach tools to recruit and maintain members. Though a potentially powerful source of community and resource pooling for women producers, limited buy-in has resulted in weak, informal networks of women's associations in the south.

### ***Increasing Women's Self-Efficacy***

During the reporting period, RADP-S reviewed 508 pre- and post-tests from Agribusiness Empowerment Program graduates. Thirty-four percent of graduates reported increased self-efficacy as a result of RADP-S programming. In quarter two, RADP-S will focus provide a second round of the Agribusiness Empowerment Program for 600 women and will utilize best practices learned through the first round, like working with schools to accommodate potential small business ideas, to ensure that women are able to implement their new ideas and impact feelings of self-efficacy.

### ***Quarterly Expenditures on Women and Gender Related Activities***

In Annex 6.6., gender expenditures for the quarter are presented. Actual expenditures from quarter four of year two, invoiced in year three are provided to provide a clearer overview of quarter four, year two spending. Adjustments in year two account for the first 2 weeks of the Agribusiness Empowerment Program. In quarter one of year three, no expenditures were made in the wheat contract line item number (CLIN). Wheat activities will begin in quarter three with PICS bags trainings. Expenditures in quarter one for high value crops are lower than expected due to (1) a delay in the establishment of 10 women's greenhouses as a result of procurement delays, and (2) expenses not yet invoiced by RADP-S key implementing partners related to the Agribusiness Empowerment Program. Livestock expenditures were slow in quarter one as a result of delayed implementation by RADP-S key implementing partner DCA. Expenditures for community outreach are not accounted for in quarter one due to delays in invoicing from RADP-S subcontractor Equal Access for the women's radio programs in Helmand and Kandahar provinces.

### **Lessons Learned During Implementation**

#### ***Targeted Interventions for Women's Associations***

After two sessions focused on women's associations, the Gender Unit found a larger need for capacity building than can currently be implemented directly by the project. To provide sustained and targeted support for the group of women, RADP-S will issue a subcontract in quarter two to a firm specializing in women's leadership, association management, and business acumen to lead a six month course for interested business women. RADP-S will supplement these trainings with lessons from established business women in Kabul looking to connect with women producers in the south, and site visits to established agribusiness interested in working with women's associations.

### **Major Planned Activities for Next Quarter**

- Begin second round Agribusiness Empowerment Program
- DOWA Demonstration Farm Groundbreaking Ceremony
- Installation of greenhouses in girls high schools and DOWAs

### 2.3.2 Nutrition

During the reporting period, nutrition encompassed two modules within the Agribusiness Empowerment Program training curriculum, with 353 women trained in preventing malnutrition, diversifying diets, micro and macro nutrients, and foods high in vitamins and minerals. In addition, RADP-S's "Women and Agricultural Change" radio program aired two episodes on nutrition in December in Kandahar and Helmand provinces. On December 14, the radio program focused on classifying nutrients with guests from the Kandahar Public Health Department and Karta-e-Lagan Clinic in Helmand province. Guests provided local context for accessing nutritious foods and steps to take if families are concerned about malnutrition. On December 21, the women's radio programs focused on different vitamins, with guests from the Kandahar Public Health Department and the Helmand Public Health Department emphasizing the importance of healthy eating and taking preventive measures. The nutrition radio programs were the two of the most popular programs aired by the RADP-S with engaging questions asked and high call-in numbers.

#### Lessons Learned During Implementation

##### ***Incorporating Nutrition Messages into Outreach Activities***

With the success of nutrition information provided over radio, RADP-S will incorporate nutrition messages into its "Better Cultivation, Better Livestock" radio program and upcoming plans for mobile theatre scripts. Because rural families have limited access to health services, radio programming allows for direct access to health experts from local, trusted public and private organizations. With this added direction, nutrition will be incorporated into activities on all demonstration farms along with outreach activities targeting both men and women.

#### Major Planned Activities for Next Quarter

- Nutrition messages to be provided during all demonstration farm trainings
- Nutrition topics to be aired on the "Better Cultivation, Better Livestock" radio program
- Nutrition topics to be incorporated into mobile theatre scripts

### 2.3.3 Communications and Outreach

##### ***"Better Cultivation, Better Livestock" Radio Program***

During the reporting period, RADP-S aired weekly uninterrupted broadcasts of the "Better Cultivation, Better Livestock," radio program throughout Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan provinces. Topics followed the crop calendar, with topics including: almond maturity and harvesting, wheat crop establishment, vegetable IPM and weed control, livestock contagious ecthyma disease, greenhouse establishment, wheat plant nutrients, and vegetable cultivation.

In December, RADP-S invited 11 agribusinesses, alongside technical specialists, onto the radio program to promote their products, technical services, and location. Input supply companies provided information on the proper application of their inputs and fruit traders gave farmers information on sorting, grading, and packaging techniques for pomegranates. The below agribusinesses appeared on the radio program in December:

<b>Radio Promotional Agribusiness Guests</b>				
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Radio Topic</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Business Type</b>
<b>Kandahar Province</b>	Dec.15	Vegetable Fertilizer Application	Sahrai Brothers Group	Input Supplier
	Dec. 22	Pomegranate Storage	Afghan Red Pomegranates	Processor
	Dec. 29	Vegetable Plant Nutrients	Saeede Sadat Group	Input Supplier
<b>Helmand Province</b>	Dec. 15	Vegetable Fertilizer Application	Helmand Farm Service Center	Input Supplier
	Dec. 22	Pomegranate Storage	Haji Talib Fresh Fruit Limited	Fruit Trader
	Dec. 29	Vegetable Plant Nutrients	Best Improved Seed and Fertilizer Company	Input Supplier
<b>Zabul Province</b>	Dec. 15	Vegetable Fertilizer Application	Naseeb Gulzar Seeds and Chemical Company	Input Supplier
	Dec. 22	Pomegranate Storage	Zabul Brothers Limited	Fruit Trader
	Dec. 29	Vegetable Fertilizer Application	Naseeb Gulzar Seeds and Chemical Company	Input Supplier
<b>Uruzgan Province</b>	Dec. 15	Vegetable Fertilizer Application	Mohammad Shakir Agriculture seeds and Agrochemical Wholesale	Input Supplier
	Dec. 22	Pomegranate Storage	Tirin Kowt Cold Storage Facilities	Fruit Traders

### ***“Women and Agricultural Change” Radio Program***

In quarter one of year three, RADP-S aired the “Women and Agricultural Change” radio program



in Kandahar and Helmand provinces. The radio program marked International Day of the Girl Child, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and International Human Rights Day through radio dramas encouraging families to allow their daughters to stay in school and information on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Radio topics also encouraged women to seek opportunities in agriculture, focusing on business marketing concepts, business

operations, and access to finance. Nutrition topics were also covered by health specialists from the Kandahar and Helmand Public Health Departments, which were received enthusiastically by the radio listenership with high call-in numbers.

### ***Public Short Announcements***

Public Short Announcements (PSAs) during the reporting period following the crop calendar with PSAs for the “Better Cultivation, Better Livestock” radio program covering the following topics: vegetable weed control, wheat fertilizer time and rate, vegetation nutrition, orchard post-harvest management, greenhouse water management, orchard irrigation, and eggplant harvesting. PSAs aired for the “Women and Agricultural Change” radio program followed the radio program topics. The PSA topics included: business budgeting and cash flow, leadership skills in business, celebrating International Human Rights Day, importance of nutrition, protein rich foods, and signs of obesity.

### ***Mobile Theatre Performances***

In quarter one, RADP-S conducted 35 mobile theatre performances for an estimated 3,075 spectators in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan provinces. Mobile theatre performances covered sheep pox disease and treatment options, orchard nutrient and fertilizer application, and wheat crop establishment. Mobile theatre performances continue to an effective outreach activity, with positive feedback from audience members in rural districts. In quarter one, RADP-S strengthened its mobilization process by working with village elders to encourage attendance and utilizing drums to call spectators to the show.

## **Lessons Learned During Implementation**

### ***Understanding Radio Engagement***

The number of questions sent to the radio stations via SMS have slowly decreased throughout the year, with less and less people engaging in SMS texts. Upon review of the SMS questions sent in and informal conversations with radio listeners, this trend makes sense when considering the target audience of the radio program. As the program audience is refined to farmers, many of whom are illiterate, the SMS questions are likely to decrease. In addition, because the cost of a text message is almost equal to the cost of a phone call, listeners are more likely to call-in, with the added benefit of hearing their voice on the radio. RADP-S will utilize this information to consider whether the radio program length properly accommodates a suitable numbers of call-in questions answered on air.

## **Major Planned Activities for Next Quarter**

- Engage agribusinesses in commercial PSAs
- Invite agribusinesses onto the radio program to promote their businesses
- Begin women’s radio programming in Zabul and Uruzgan provinces
- Begin all women’s mobile theatre group performances

### 2.3.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

#### ***Monitoring and Evaluation Site Visits***

During the reporting period, the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Unit planned 315 site visits, of which 172 were conducted. Increased insecurity in Helmand and Uruzgan, prevented site visits in October and November. The M&E Unit noted a greatly reduced number of children present at training events throughout the quarter as a result of strict guidelines from RADP-S. Additional findings included the fact that trainings did not start on time as farmers arrived late and the training curriculum did not stretch for the full three hours. RADP-S worked with its key implementing partner ADA to ensure that master trainers were providing a three session, whether in the classroom or during on-farm demonstrations, to fully cover the nuanced technical topics for each module.

#### Lessons Learned During Implementation

#### ***Limited Provincial Resources Inhibit Information Gathering***

RADP-S struggles with security requirements and the challenges of staffing in rural areas to diligently monitor activities on the ground. As a result of this experience, RADP-S will engage a third party monitoring firm able to provide human resources and strategies for monitoring within insecure and rural districts.

#### Major Planned Activities for Next Quarter

- 119 site visits planned for January 2016
- Complete the Annual Household Survey
- Release a request for proposal for a third party monitor

## 2.4 Learning and Adaptation

#### ***The Impact of Recordkeeping for Agribusinesses***

RADP-S will begin formalizing relationships with agribusinesses in quarter two through Business Growth Conferences and with the creation of individual Business Growth Plans per business. Each agribusiness must agree through a Memorandum of Understanding to commit to providing financial data and a Business Growth Plan in coordination with RADP-S. RADP-S will emphasize the importance of recordkeeping, a need initially identified in focus groups with agribusinesses, in order to measure the impact of specific interventions on business sales.

#### ***Increasing Government Coordination***

In quarter one, RADP-S increased coordination with government officials through greater one-on-one meetings in order to provide points of contacts for various government counterparts from the district to provincial level. Feedback from government counterparts has been positive.

Officials now have a direct line to the project and feel that their concerns will not be lost through a third party. RADP-S has received information from the Kandahar DAIL on their priorities, specifically the revitalization of Tarnac Farms. DAILs have also stressed interventions for the Kuchi population in livestock care, which RADP-S is currently considering.

### 3. PARTNER & STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

#### 3.1 USAID and non-USAID Funded Projects

##### ***Work Plan Coordination with USAID***

In coordination with USAID, RADP-S presented the Year Three Work Plan to MAIL, stressing a collaborative vision between MAIL with RADP-North and RADP-West. The year three work plan promotes private sector integration into all project components.

##### ***Knowledge Sharing with the Regional Agricultural Development Program-North***

During the reporting period, the RADP-S Gender Unit attended a two day conference hosted by RADP-N for women agribusiness owners. The conference focused on value chains relevant to RADP-S implementation and allowed RADP-S technical staff to exchange ideas with RADP-N's gender staff on effective interventions for business women.

##### ***Coordination with the Afghan Trade and Revenue (ATAR) Project***

In quarter one, RADP-S attended the Women and Trade: Opportunities and Challenges in Afghanistan Conference, hosted by the Afghan Trade and Revenue Project (ATAR). The conference brought together business women interested in exchanging ideas, expanding their market presence, and interested in collaborations. RADP-S provided information on its business growth plan model and will further connect with businesses interested in linking with women-owned businesses in southern Afghanistan.

##### ***Collaborations with the Promote Women in the Economy Project***

On December 12, the RADP-S Gender Advisor met with the Promote Women in the Economy (WIE) Workforce Development Team Lead to discuss future areas of collaboration. Initial discussions were held on how to connect RADP-S Agribusiness Empowerment Program graduates with WIE opportunities, as well as potential training linkages at the RADP-S supported Kandahar DOWA Demonstration Farm.

#### 3.2 Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

##### ***Kandahar***

During the reporting period, monthly meetings were held with government officials and RADP-S staff and key implementing staff members. In October, the RADP-S Chief of Party and Communications Advisor met with the Kandahar Provincial Governor and outlined RADP-S's

work plan for year three. The Governor applauded the focus on private sector development and suggested collaboration with the Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industries. RADP-S also attended a coordination meeting with the MAIL Minister, Kandahar DAIL Director, and local NGOs in Kandahar to discuss agricultural constraints and southern-focused strategies to boosting economic growth.

RADP-S's key implementing partner, ADA and DCA attended Sectorial Work Group meetings during the reporting period to provide updates on RADP-S activities. RADP-S and ADA also met with the Kandahar DOWA Director to coordinate the Agribusiness Empowerment Program and DOWA Demonstration Farm.

### ***Helmand***

In Helmand province, the RADP-S Field Agent held regular meetings with the Helmand DAIL Director, Provincial Governor, and Deputy Governor. RADP-S emphasized that all demonstration farms are available for DAIL staff seeking to increase their extension knowledge. RADP-S provided monthly updates on trainings activities. DCA's Provincial Coordinate also met with the DAIL representative and the Deputy Governor to provide animal health updates, where a request was made to focus targeted interventions for the Kuchi population if within the project's scope.

During the reporting period, the RADP-S Field Agent attended the Helmand Provincial Development Council meeting held by the Provincial Governor. The Provincial Governor provided updates on the security situation in Helmand and noted the number of displaced families as a result. The DOWA Director praised RADP-S's gender programming in the meeting and encouraged other implementing partners to do more work for the women of Helmand.

### ***Zabul***

During the reporting period, ADA attended coordination meetings with the DAIL Director in Zabul, sharing monthly training activity reports and RADP-S's year three work plan goals. ADA and DCA continued to attend working group meetings with the Department of the Economy, which encouraged all partners to document challenges for monthly presentation. In November, the RADP-S Zabul Field Agent attended a meeting with the DAIL Director, DAIL Extension Manager, and DAIL Cooperatives Manager.

ADA held regular meetings with the DAIL Director and provided a brief report on RADP-S training activities and training plans for December. The DAIL Director requested that ADA provide information on the crops under cultivation by Zabul farmers and any pest and disease problems encountered. ADA agree to provide this type of information to DAIL.

### ***Uruzgan***

In November, the RADP-S Field Agent for Uruzgan province, DCA, and ADA met with the Governor to provide an overview of RADP-S Year Three activities. The training curriculum was clarified for year three as well as DCA's upcoming animal health initiatives. As a result of this meeting, the Deputy Governor and DAIL Director visited a demonstration farm in Tirin Kot, acknowledging the winter vegetables and low tunnels being utilized for winter vegetable cultivation as important for Uruzgan farmers. The RADP-S Field Agent also held meetings with the DAIL Director and DOWA Director to coordinate gender programming according to RADP-S's work plan.

## 4. OTHER PROGRAM RELATED EVENTS

### ***Assessment of Kandahar Airfield***

During the reporting period, in coordination with USAID, a short-term consultant was brought onto the project to assess agricultural opportunities presented by the Kandahar Airfield as a central processing and commercial sector. The assessment considers case studies of successes and failures and outlines potential management and cost responsibilities for the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The assessment was completed in December and has been submitted to USAID for review.

## 5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

### 5.1 Personnel

As of December 31, 2015, RADP-S has a total of 103 long-term local national employees and eight long-term expatriate employees. In quarter one, the Chief of Party left the project and was replaced by the Technical Deputy Chief of Party. A long-term M&E Advisor joined the project in December, taking over from the previous short-term M&E Advisor. Local hires in the quarter include: two Subcontracts and Grants Assistants, one Subcontracts and Procurement Assistance, one Finance Assistant, one Operations Facilitator, one Provincial Field Agent, and one Water Resources Manager.

### 5.2 Modifications and Amendments

On December 29, RADP-S executed Modification 5 which incrementally funded the program in the amount of \$43,317,318.96, thereby increasing the total obligated amount from \$50,863,146 to \$94,180,464.96.

## 6. APPENDICES

### 6.1 Indicator Performance Tracking Table

*Attached as separate Excel Sheet.*

## 6.2 Key Activities Accomplished During the Quarter

Project Component	Activity Description	Target of Activity	Expected Outcome of Activity	Dates of Activity	Location information		
					Province	Districts	Lat Long
Wheat	Wheat Plant Nutrition Training	Increase farmer beneficiaries knowledge in wheat plant nutrition	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	Oct 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai. Zheri	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy	
Wheat	Wheat Crop Establishment	Build capacity of farmer beneficiaries in water management specific to wheat growing	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	Nov 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai. Zheri	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy	
Wheat	Wheat Water Management	Build capacity of farmer beneficiaries in establishing wheat crops	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	Dec 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai. Zheri	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy	
Wheat	Wheat Post-harvest techniques	Build capacity of farmer beneficiaries in post-harvest management skills	Farmers trained in improved post-harvest techniques	Oct-Dec 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai. Zheri	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy	
Wheat	Support Sahrai Loy Kandahar	Support at Kabul and Kandahar Ag Fairs	Firm operates more profitably	Oct-Nov 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	

Project Component	Activity Description	Target of Activity	Expected Outcome of Activity	Dates of Activity	Location information		
					Province	Districts	Lat Long
	Improved Seeds Company						
HVC	Greenhouse Establishment	Build capacity of farmer beneficiaries to establish greenhouses	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	Nov 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai, Zheri	
HVC	Orchard Establishment	Build capacity of farmer beneficiaries to establish orchards	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	Oct 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai, Zheri	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy	
HVC	Orchard Maintenance	Increase knowledge of farmer beneficiaries in pruning and tree management	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	Nov 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nawa	
HVC	Orchard plant nutrition	Build capacity of farmers beneficiaries to apply nutrients and fertilizer	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	Dec 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai, Zheri	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy	
HVC	Vegetable plant nutrition	Build capacity of farmers beneficiaries to apply nutrients and fertilizer	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	Nov 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai, Zheri	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy	

Project Component	Activity Description	Target of Activity	Expected Outcome of Activity	Dates of Activity	Location information			
					Province	Districts	Lat	Long
HVC	Vineyard IPM and Weed Control	Build capacity of farmer beneficiaries to apply integrated pest management techniques	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	Oct 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa		
					Zabul	Jaldak		
					Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa		
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai, Zheri		
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot		
HVC	Vineyard IPM and Weed Control	Increase knowledge of farmer beneficiaries in integrated pest management and weed control in vineyards	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	Nov 2015	Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy		
					Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa		
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai, Zheri		
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot		
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy		
HVC	Vineyard Nutrition	Increase knowledge of farmer beneficiaries in nutrition of fruits and vegetables commonly grown in vineyards	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	Dec 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa		
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai, Zheri		
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot		
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy		
					Helmand	Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa		
HVC	Post-Harvest Training	Build capacity of farmers in post-harvest and cold storage techniques	Farmers trained in improved post-harvest techniques	Nov 2015	Kandahar	Arghandab, Dand, Panjwai		
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot		
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy		
					Zabul	Qalat		
					Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa		
HVC	Solar Dehydrator Demonstrations	Farmers are connected to private enterprises	Farmers will adopt new technologies	Dec 2015				
Livestock	FEG Training Sessions on	Increase awareness of VFU services and	FEG members will provide basic knowledge on various	Oct-Dec 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa		

Project Component	Activity Description	Target of Activity	Expected Outcome of Activity	Dates of Activity	Location information			
					Province	Districts	Lat	Long
	large ruminant herd health	importance of livestock care	livestock issues to local communities		Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai, Zheri		
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot		
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy		
Livestock	Paravet refresher trainings	Build capacity of veterinary field units on basic veterinary skills	Paravets will increase their capacity to improve animal health	Oct-Nov 2015	Kandahar	Kandahar City		
Livestock	Promotional trainings for Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughter House	Connect private enterprise to producers	Improve company profitability	Oct 2015	Kandahar	Kandahar City		
Livestock	Promotional trainings for Ahmad Shahi Chicken Farm	Connect private enterprise to producers	Improve company profitability	Oct-Nov 2015	Kandahar	Kandahar City		
Livestock	Promotional trainings for Khurasan Cub Fish Company	Connect private enterprise to producers	Improve company profitability	Oct 2015	Kandahar	Kandahar City		
Enabling Environment	National Poultry Policy	Moved to Stage 2: drafted and presented for stakeholder consultation	Improve enabling environment for poultry production	Nov 2015	Kabul	Kabul		
Enabling Environment	National Irrigation Policy	Moved to Stage 2: drafted and presented for stakeholder consultation	Improve irrigation management	Nov 2015	Kabul	Kabul		
Gender		Build capacity of women and girls in		Oct-Dec 2015	Kandahar	Aino Mena, DOWA		
					Helmand	DOWA, Lashkar Gah City		

Project Component	Activity Description	Target of Activity	Expected Outcome of Activity	Dates of Activity	Location information			
					Province	Districts	Lat	Long
	Agribusiness Empowerment Program	business and vegetable cultivation	Women have increased access to economic opportunities		Uruzgan	DOWA, Tirin Kot		
					Zabul	DOWA, Qalat		
Gender	Association management training	Women increase knowledge of associations	Women have increased access to economic opportunities	Oct 2015	Kandahar	Kandahar City		
Communications and Outreach	"Better Cultivation, Better Livestock" Radio Program	Increase awareness in the wheat, high value crops, and livestock value chain	Local communities will have more knowledge on issues related to productivity and production	Oct-Dec 2015	Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, Uruzgan	Broadcast in all target districts		
Communications and Outreach	"Women and Agricultural Change" Radio Program	Increase awareness in the women's role in agricultural production and business	Women will have more knowledge in accessing agriculture activities	Oct-Dec 2015	Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, Uruzgan	Broadcast in all target districts		
Communications and Outreach	Public Short Announcements	Increase awareness about project activities	Local communities will have more knowledge on issues related to productivity and production	Oct-Dec 2015	Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, Uruzgan	Broadcast in all target districts		
Communications and Outreach	Mobile Theatre Performances	Increase community involvement and enjoyment in agricultural topics	Local communities will have more knowledge on issues related to productivity and production	Oct-Dec 2015	Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, Uruzgan	All target districts		

Table I: Demo Farm Coordinates

Province	Demo District	farm	Demo Code #	Demo Address/Village Name	Farm	GPS Coordinates
Kandahar [30]	Arghandab [6]		Arghandab 01			
			Arghandab 02			
			Arghandab 03			
			Arghandab 04			
			Arghandab 05			
			Arghandab 06			
	Daman [6]		Daman 01			
			Daman 02			
			Daman 03			
			Daman 04			
			Daman 05			
			Daman 06			
	Dand [6]		Dand 01			
			Dand 02			
			Dand 03			
			Dand 04			
			Dand 05			
			Dand 06			
	Panjwai [6]		Panjwai 01			
			Panjwai 02			
			Panjwai 03			
			Panjwai 04			
			Panjwai 05			
			Panjwai 06			
			Zheri 01			

	Zheri [6]	Zheri 02	
		Zheri 03	
		Zheri 04	
		Zheri 05	
		Zheri 06	
		Lashkargah 01	
Helmand [24]	Lashkar [6]	Lashkargah 02	
		Lashkargah 03	
		Lashkargah 04	
		Lashkargah 05	
		Lashkargah 06	
		Nahri Saraj 01	
	Nahri [6]	Nahri Saraj 02	
		Nahri Saraj 03	
		Nahri Saraj 04	
		Nahri Saraj 05	
		Nahri Saraj 06	
		Nawa 01	
	Nawa [6]	Nawa 02	
		Nawa 03	
		Nawa 04	
		Nawa 05	
		Nawa 06	
		Nad Ali 01	
	Nad [6]	Nad Ali 02	
		Nad Ali 03	

		Nad Ali 04	
		Nad Ali 05	
		Nad Ali 06	
Zabul [11]	Qalat [5]	Qalat 01	
		Qalat 02	
		Qalat 03	
		Qalat 04	
		Qalat 05	
	Shajoy [4]	Shajoy 01	
		Shajoy 02	
		Shajoy 03	
		Shajoy 04	
	Jaldak [2]	Jaldak 01	
		Jaldak 02	
Uruzgan [13]	Tirin [6]	Tarinkot 01	
		Tarinkot 02	
		Tarinkot 03	
		Tarinkot 04	
		Tarinkot 05	
		Tarinkot 06	
	Dehrawood [4]	Dehrawood 01	
		Dehrawood 02	
		Dehrawood 03	
		Dehrawood 04	
	Chora [3]	Chora 01	
		Chora 02	
		Chora 03	

### 6.3 Grants Tracking Sheet/Update

S/ N	Sector/ CLIN	Grantee	Grant Amount (USD)	Purpose and Main Activities	Start Date	End Date	Geographic Coverage		Grantee Contact Info and Address	Remarks
							Province	District/s		
1	Livestock		\$16,000	Development and expansion of fish farming businesses and sales.	20-May-2015	10-Nov-2015	Kandahar	Arghandab, Panjwai, Zharai, Daman, Dand		Activity Completed
2	Livestock		\$12,642	Capacity building training for Afghan Sadaqat personnel and contracted broiler farms.	11-May-2015	15-Nov-2015	Kandahar	Panjwai, Zharai, Dand, Daman, City		Activity Completed
3	Livestock		\$12,214	Capacity building for broiler farmers in modern farming to increase the market for broiler inputs.	20-May-2015	30-Nov-2015	Kandahar	Dand, Daman, Panjwai, Zharai		Activity Completed
4	HVC		\$11,731	Sales promotion and training for farmers in the use of high density sapling, mother stocks, and orchard grafting.	20-Aug-2015	28-Feb-2016	Kandahar	Panjwai, Arghandab, Dand, and Daman		Will start activities in Feb 2016

#### 6.4 Project Oversight and Support – Monitoring Visits during Reporting Period

Date of Site Visit	Province-District	Activity Visited	Major observations and/or findings from site visits
<b>Helmand Province-</b> No site visits conducted due to high insecurity.			
<b>Kandahar Province</b>			
13-Oct-2015	Daman	Orchard Establishment Classroom	No major findings
14-Oct-2015	Aino-Mena, Dowa	Taraqi Saba	Attendance sheet needed to be re-checked for accurate participant listing
14-Oct-2015	Dand	Vineyard IPM and weed control classroom	No major findings
21-Oct-2015	Arghandab	Estrous Cycle, Natural and Artificial insemination-Parturition and retention of Placenta	10 out of 15 trainees were present and flip charts were not used
21-Oct-2015	Arghandab	Orchard Establishment Classroom	No major findings
26-Oct-2015	Arghandab	Orchard Establishment Classroom	No major findings
27-Oct-2015	Panjwai	Greenhouse Establishment Demo	No major findings
<b>Uruzgan Province</b>			
4-Oct-15	Tirin Kowt	Orchard Establishment Classroom	The trainer used a local accent during the training and trainees were active and had good participation.
5-Oct-15	Tirin Kowt	Wheat Plant Nutrition Classroom	No major findings
6-Oct-15	Tirin Kowt	Wheat Plant Nutrition Classroom	No major findings

7-Oct-15	Tirin Kowt	Vineyard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	No major findings	
8-Oct-15	Tirin Kowt	Wheat Plant Nutrition Classroom	No major findings	
11-Oct-15	Tirin Kowt	Wheat Plant Nutrition Classroom	Some participants were randomly selected to check their background and participation history, their information matched the attendance sheet and they were within the criteria.	
13-Oct-15	Chora	Wheat Plant Nutrition Classroom	Some participants were randomly selected to check their background and participation history, their information matched the attendance sheet and they were within the criteria.	
14-Oct-15	Chora	Wheat Plant Nutrition Classroom	No major findings	
18-Oct-15	Chora	Orchard Establishment Classroom	No major findings	
19-Oct-15	Tirin Kowt	Wheat Plant Nutrition Classroom	No major findings	
20-Oct-2015	Tirin Kowt	Wheat Plant Nutrition Classroom	No major findings	
22-Oct-2015	Tirin Kowt	Greenhouse Plant Nutrition Demo	No major findings	
28-Oct-2015	Tirin Kowt	Vineyard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	No major findings	
29-Oct-2015	Tirin Kowt	Wheat Plant Nutrition Classroom	No major findings	
<b>Zabul Province</b>				
6-Oct-15	Qalat	Orchard Plant Nutrition Class Room	No major findings	
7-Oct-15	Qalat	Vineyard IPM and Weed Control Class Room	Trainer needed to encourage more participation	
8-Oct-15	Qalat	Wheat Plant Nutrition Classroom	Presence of underage trainees	

12-Oct-15	Qalat	Vineyard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	No major findings
13-Oct-15	Qalat	Wheat Plant Nutrition	Presence of underage trainees
14-Oct-15	Qalat	Orchard Establishment	No major findings
15-Oct-15	Qalat	Greenhouse Plant Nutrition Classroom	No major findings
18-Oct-15	Qalat	Orchard Plant Nutrition Class Room	No major findings
19-Oct-15	Qalat	Orchard Establishment Classroom	No major findings
20-Oct-15	Qalat	Greenhouse Plant Nutrition Demo	No major findings
21-Oct-15	Qalat	Orchard Plant Nutrition Class Room	Trainer needed to explain technical terms in easier to understand language
22-Oct-15	Qalat	Wheat Plant Nutrition classroom	No major findings
25-Oct-15	Qalat	Orchard Establishment Classroom	No major findings
26-Oct-2015	Qalat	Greenhouse Plant Nutrition	No major findings
27-Oct-2015	Qalat	Vineyard IPM and Weed control Classroom	No major findings

Date of Site Visit	Province - District	Activity Visited	Major observations and/or findings from site visits
<b>Helmand</b>			
17- Nov- 15	Lashkargah	Orchard establishment/ Post harvest (classroom)	Training started late
18-Nov-15	Lashkargah	Vineyard maintenance Harvest and post-harvest management (classroom)	Training started late

23-Nov-2015	Lashkargah	Vineyard Maintenance /post-harvest classroom	No major finding
24-Nov-2015	Nawa	Wheat Crop Establishment Post-harvest classroom	Training started late
29-Nov-2015	Lashkargah	Vineyard Maintenance /post-harvest classroom	No major finding
25-Nov-15	Lashkargah	Orchard Nutrition-post-Harvest Classroom	No major findings
29-Nov-15	Lashkargah	Vineyard Maintenance Post-Harvest classroom	No major findings
<b>Kandahar</b>			
01-Nov-2015	Dand	Crop Establishment Post – harvest(wheat) Demonstration	No major finding
02-Nov-2015	Zhari	Plant Nutrition/post-harvest(orchard) classroom	Training started late
3-Nov-15	Parjwai	Greenhouse Veg. Nutrition-post-Harvest Classroom	All training contents were well covered
4-Nov-15	Arghandab	Vineyard Maintenance –Post-Harvest Classroom	Training started late
05-Nov-2015	Daman	Crop Establishment Post – harvest(wheat) Demonstration	Training started late
8-Nov-15	Arghandab	Orchard Nutrition-Post-Harvest Classroom	Training started late
8-9-Nov-2015	Aino Mena- DOWA	Nutrition	Training started late
10-Nov-15	Sayed Pacha High School	Taraq Saba	No major finding
10-Nov-2015	Parjwai	Vineyard Maintenance Post-Harvest Classroom	No major finding
09-Nov-2015	Daman	Orchard Establishment Classroom	Training started late
09-Nov-2015	Zheri 02	Vegetable Plant Nutrition-Classroom	Training started late
10-Nov-2015	Dand 02	Vineyard Maintenance-Classroom	No major finding

12-Nov-2015	Arghandab 03	Orchard Plant Nutrition-Classroom	No pre- or post-test was taken	
15-Nov-2015	Daman 03	Vegetable Plant Nutrition-Classroom	Training started late	
15-Nov-15	Aino Mena- DOWA	Greenhouse Vegetable Nutrition training	Training started late	
16-Nov-2015	Dand 03	Vineyard Maintenance-Classroom	Underage trainee present who was requested to leave.	
16-Nov-15	Sayed Pacha Khan high School	Greenhouse Vegetable Nutrition training	No major findings	
17-Nov-2015	Panjiwayi 04	Wheat Crop Establishment-Harvest and Post-Harvest Demonstration	No major findings	
17-Nov-15	Aino Mena- DOWA	Greenhouse Vegetable Nutrition training	No major findings	
17-Nov-15	Arghandab	Wheat Crop Establishment-Harvest and Post-Harvest Demonstration	No major findings	
18-Nov-15	Zhari	Orchard Plant Nutrition Classroom	Training started late	
18-Nov-15	Panjiwai	Orchard Plant Nutrition-Post-Harvest Classroom	No major findings	
19-Nov-2015	Zheri 04	Orchard Plant Nutrition-Classroom & Vineyard Maintenance-Classroom	Training started late	
19-Nov-15	Dand	Vineyard Maintenance Post-Harvest Classroom	No major findings	
22-Nov-15	Sayed Pacha Khan high School	Nutrition	Training started late	
25-Nov-2015	Dand 06	Wheat Crop Establishment-Demonstration	Underage trainees requested to leave	
23-Nov-15	Aino Mena- DOWA	Nutrition	No major findings	

24-Nov-15	Aino #02 High School	Nutrition	No major findings
25-Nov-15	Sayed Pacha Khan high School	Nutrition	No major findings
29-Nov-15	Aino Mena- DOWA	Saving and budgeting	No major findings
30-Nov-15	Sayed Pacha Khan High School	Saving and budgeting	Trainer needed more information to answer all questions
<b>ZABUL</b>			
1-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Wheat crop establishment- post harvest	No major findings
2-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Orchard Plant Nutrition	No major findings
3-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Green House, Vegetable Plant Nutrition	No major findings
4-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Vineyard Maintenance post-harvest	No major findings
5-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Wheat crop establishment- post harvest	No major findings
6-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Orchard Plant Nutrition	No major findings
7-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Green House, Vegetable Plant Nutrition	Training started late
11-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Wheat crop establishment- post harvest	No major findings
12-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Orchard Plant Nutrition	No major findings

15-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Green House, Vegetable Plant Nutrition	No major findings
16-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Vineyard Maintenance post-harvest	No major findings
17-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Wheat crop establishment-post harvest	No major findings
18-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Orchard Plant Nutrition	No major findings
19-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Green House, Vegetable Plant Nutrition	No major findings
22-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Vineyard Maintenance post-harvest	No major findings
23-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Wheat crop establishment-post harvest	Presence of underage trainees
24-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Orchard Plant Nutrition	No major findings
25-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Green House, Vegetable Plant Nutrition	No major findings
26-Nov-15	Zabul-Qalat	Vineyard Maintenance post-harvest	No major findings
<b>URUZGAN</b>			
01-Nov-15	Tirin Kowt	Plant Nutrition Orchard Classroom	Presence of one underage trainee
02-Nov-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Establishment wheat on demonstration	Training not conducted according to schedule
03-Nov-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Establishment wheat on demonstration	No major findings
05-Nov-15	Tirin Kowt	Vineyard Maintenance classroom	No major findings

08-Nov-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Establishment wheat on demonstration	No major findings
10-Nov-15	Chora	Vegetable Nutrition greenhouse classroom	No major findings
11-Nov-15	Chora	Crop Establishment wheat on demonstration	No major findings
21-Nov-15	Tirin Kowt	Vegetable Nutrition greenhouse classroom	No major findings
22-Nov-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Establishment wheat on demonstration	No major findings
23-Nov-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Establishment wheat on demonstration	No major findings
24-Nov-15	Tirin Kowt	Vineyard Maintenance classroom	No major findings
25-Nov-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Establishment wheat on demonstration	Training started late
26-Nov-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Establishment wheat on demonstration	Training started late

Date of Site Visit	Demo Farm	Activity Visited	Major observations and/or findings from site visits
<b>Helmand</b>			
1-Dec-2015	Lashkargah01	Orchard Maintenance/harvest and post-harvest Classroom	Training started late
1-Dec-2015	Nawa02	Wheat water management/ harvest and post-harvest Classroom	Master trainer needed to use easier technical language
7-Dec-15	Lashkargah02	Wheat water management/ harvest and post-harvest Classroom	No major findings

8-Dec-2015	Lashkargah I	Wheat water management/ harvest and post-harvest Classroom	No major findings- trainees were satisfied with the training.
8-Dec-2015	Nawa01	Wheat water management/ harvest and post-harvest Classroom	No major findings
9-Dec-2015	Nawa02	(Vineyard) Nutrition/ harvest and post-harvest Management Classroom	Trainer had good knowledge about the topic and kept involve all participants in the training.
9-Dec-2015	Lashkargah01	(Vineyard) Nutrition/ harvest and post-harvest Management Classroom	Training started late
10-Dec-2015	Lashkargah03	Orchard Maintenance /harvest and post-harvest classroom	No major findings
13-Dec-2015	Nawa03	Wheat Water Management/ harvest and post-harvest Classroom	Training started late
14-Dec-2015	Nawa3	(Vineyard) Nutrition/ harvest and post-harvest Management Classroom	No major findings
15-Dec-2015	Lashkargah04	Orchard Maintenance /harvest and post-harvest classroom	Strong master trainer
<b>Kandahar</b>			
13-Dec-2015	FEGAghandab04	Feeding according to the Cycle of Production	Pre- and post-tests were not conducted.
14-Dec-2015	FEGDand04	Feeding according to the Cycle of Production	No major findings
15-Dec-2015	FEGDaman01	Feeding according to the Cycle of Production	Pre- and post-tests were not conducted.

16-Dec-2015	FEGArghandab02	Housing management for Cattle	No major findings
17-Dec-2015	FEGDaman03	Housing management for Cattle	Training did not last the full session.
20-Dec-2015	FEGDand01	Housing management for Cattle	Training started late
20-Dec-2015	Arghandab04	Orchard Maintenance-Classroom	Training started late
21-Dec-2015	Dand 05	Vineyard Nutrition/harvest and post-harvest Classroom	Pre- and post-tests were not conducted.
21-Dec-2015	Dand05	(Greenhouse) Winter Vegetables plant Nutrition/ harvest and post Demonstration	No major findings.
22-Dec-2015	Daman05	Wheat Water Management/ harvest and post-harvest Classroom	No major findings.
22-Dec-2015	FEGArghandab03	Feeding according to the Cycle of Production	Training started late
27-Dec-2015	Arghandab05	Vineyard Plant Nutrition/ harvest and post-harvest classroom	No major findings.
28-Dec-2015	Dand04	Wheat Water Management/ harvest and post-harvest Classroom	Training started late
29-Dec-2015	Daman06	Orchard Nutrition/ harvest and post-harvest Classroom	Training started late

<b>ZABUL</b>			
1-Dec-2015	Qalat01	Wheat Water Management/ harvest and post-harvest classroom	No major findings.
2-Dec-2015	Qalat01	Orchard Maintenance/ harvest and post-harvest Classroom	No major findings.
3-Dec-2015	Qalat01	Greenhouse establishment/harvest and post-harvest Demonstration	No major findings.
6-Dec-2015	Qalat01	Vineyard Nutrition/ harvest and post-harvest Classroom	No major findings.
7-Dec-2015	Qalat02	Wheat Water Management/ harvest and post-harvest Classroom	Training started late
8-Dec-2015	Qalat02	Orchard Maintenance/ harvest and post-harvest	Pre-tests were not conducted.
9-Dec-2015	Qalat02	Greenhouse establishment harvest and post-harvest Demonstration	No major findings.
10-Dec-2015	Qalat02	Vineyard Nutrition/harvest and post-harvest classroom	Training started late
13-Dec-2015	FEGJaldak02	Different processes of cow feeding training	No major findings.
15-Dec-2015	Qalat03	Greenhouse establishment harvest and post-harvest demonstration	No major findings.

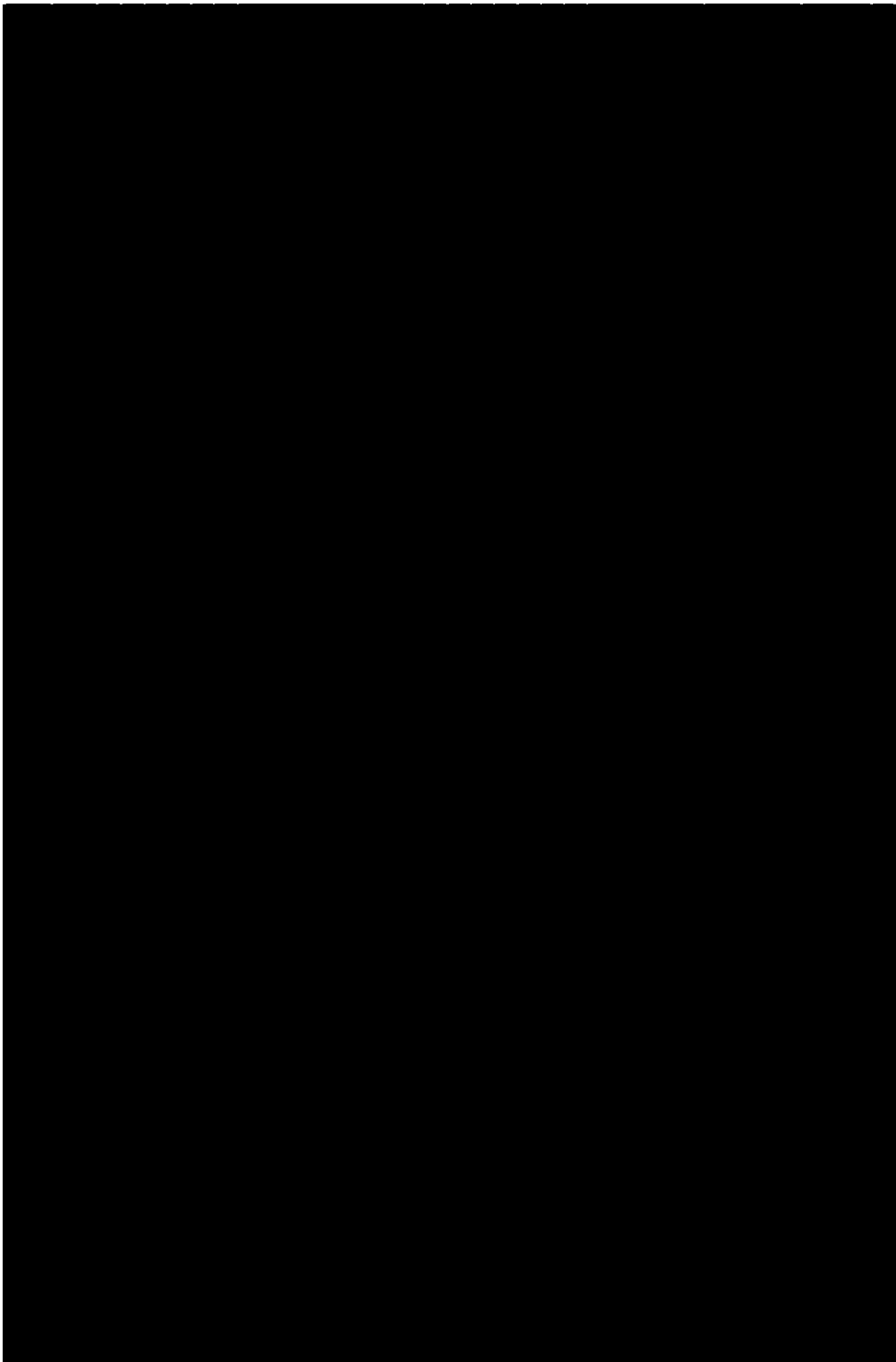
16-Dec-2015	FEGJaldak01	Housing management for cattle	No major findings.	
17-Dec-2015	Qalat04	Wheat Water Management-harvest and post-Harvest Classroom	No major findings.	
<b>Uruzgan</b>				
1-Dec-2015	TrinkKot01	Orchard Maintenance Classroom	Training started late.	
2-Dec-2015	TrinKot01	Orchard Maintenance/ harvest and post-harvest Classroom	No major findings.	
3-Dec-2015	TrinKot01	Wheat Water Management/ harvest and post-harvest Classroom	No major findings.	
13-Dec-2015	Chora03	Wheat Water Management/ harvest and post-harvest Classroom	No major findings.	
14-Dec-2015	Chora3	Wheat Water Management/ harvest and post-harvest Classroom	No major findings.	
15-Dec-2015	Dehrawood04	Orchard Maintenance / harvest and post-harvest classroom	No major findings.	
15-Dec-2015	FEGDehrawood04	Housing management for Cattle	No major findings.	
16-Dec-2015	Dehrawood04	Greenhouse establishment/ harvest and post-harvest Demo	No major findings.	
17-Dec-2015	Dehrawood04	Wheat Water Management/ harvest and post-harvest Classroom	No major findings.	

20-Dec-2015	Trinkot05	Greenhouse establishment/ harvest and post-harvest Demo	No major findings.
20-Dec-2015	FEGTrinkot03	Housing management for Cattle	No major findings.
30-Dec-2015	Trinkot06	Vineyard Nutrition-Harvest and post-harvest Classroom	No major findings.

## 6.5 Financial Report/Budget Information

QUARTERLY EXPENDITURES October– December, 2015	

6.6 Gender Budget



## 6.7 FY 2016 Work Plan Amendments

RADP-S is implementing its FY 2016 program year. As RADP-S executed plans in the first quarter of the year, the project has gained an improved understanding of opportunities and obstacles and offer the below augmentations to the work plan in the spirit of collaboration, learning, and adapting. It is the project's belief that through working to continually improve the program with transparency, we will discover the optimum strategies and tactics to create developmental impact.

### 1. VALUE CHAIN WORKPLAN AMENDMENT:

**Pilot Farmer Catchment Areas (FCA's):** RADP-S has ambitious goals for enterprise work and for on-farm training. FY16 is a time to knit these activities together. Increased interaction between enterprises and farmers at the demo farm level has already begun but can be improved beyond what our work plan initially described.

For five demonstration farms nearby Kandahar, a RADP-S employee will promote collective input purchase and collective sale of agricultural products produced. This added point of programmatic contact will work to form associative groups and to facilitate connections to agro-input dealers wholesalers, processors, and traders. The initial target group will be comprised of farmers that have already been trained at the demonstration farm.

Over time the DOWA demonstration farm will be included in this initiative and a planned collaboration with ANASTU may also be a good fit. The location of farms for this pilot are at district centers in order to optimize organic commercial corridors.

Adding this activity to our Value Chain Component activities will knit together 'production' and 'enterprise' initiatives, allowing greater synergies throughout the project and institutionalizing a superior execution of facilitative value-chain activities that ties back to project-engaged producers.

### 2. WHEAT AND HVC WORKPLAN AMENDMENT:

**Nutrition Training:** Building off of weak nutrition numbers in FY15, RADP-S decided on amending nutritional training activities from a module provided only for women, to an add-on for all trainings on demonstration farms. This training module was to have begun in Q1 but has been moved to mid-Q2 as a result of delays in the process of redesign and DAIL approval.

**Demonstration Farm Selection:** The Ali Sherzai Demo farm in Uruzgan Province (Chora District), resigned and we selected another with the DAIL district office in conjunction with ADA. In the second quarter of FY16, five new demonstration farms will commence operations, all new demo farms are selected in consultation with the District DAIL offices who recommend multiple locations and vet them together with community Shura elders. Subcontractors also play a key

role in the decision process as they need to take on responsibility for their smooth operation during the life of project.

### **3. LIVESTOCK WORKPLAN AMENDMENTS:**

**Monitoring:** Over the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of FY16 reports of implementation from DCA gathered separately by RADP-S and USAID have described uneven performance, particularly in the province of Uruzgan. RADP-S is providing a warning to the subcontractor (DCA), is increasing monitoring of their performance through a third party, and will be collaborating with them over the next quarter to see whether they can execute their work plan successfully in their entire contract area, or whether a portion of their subcontract should be rebid in an attempt to discover a more responsive livestock partner.

**Farmer Extension Group (FEG) Delay:** RADP-S Key Implementing Partner DCA, cites the conclusion of training activities for existing FEGs and the lengthy process of discussion with district governors, DAILs, DDAs and shuras on the selection of new FEGs as reasons for delay. Establishment will now be completed in February and training will start at the end of February. In conjunction with DCA, RADP-S investigating the suitability of milking-kits as part of the revised forthcoming FEG training curriculum.

**Fodder Bank Pilot Delay:** RADP-S Key Implementing Partner DCA is delayed in the development of the fodder bank pilot model. After conducting an assessment on the needs and the potential collaboration from cooperatives and communities in their selected province of Zabul, the local communities asked were resistant to the idea. The DCA team is presently visiting Bamyan to gather more information to advance a workable solution. March execution of the Fodder Bank Pilot is planned by DCA.

**Self Help Group Delay:** RADP-S Key Implementing Partner DCA is delayed in the implementation of their self-help group activities, slated to start between December and March. This is due to the delay in the completion of FEG trainings cited above. This activity has been moved to February and March

### **4. GENDER WORKPLAN AMENDMENT:**

**Greenhouses:** Initial awardee for greenhouse work –the creation of 10 6X20M Greenhouses established at 4 DOWAs and 6 girls highschools- was delayed due to remaining work on an earlier subcontract. The kick-off meeting occurred on January 26<sup>th</sup> and will be reported in the forthcoming January monthly report. Completion of this activity is planned by the second week of April.

Agricultural goods are required to be purchased related to this activity. RADP-S bid out the purchase of seeds and made award pending greenhouse establishment. Because greenhouse establishment is delayed, RADP-S may need to seek an additional approval through USG due to

the requalification of seeds as an agricultural good. RADP-S will seek clarification on this from USAID going forward and activities may be delayed further due to this development.

## **5. OUTREACH WORKPLAN AMENDMENT:**

**Crop Calendars:** RADP-S has been planning the creation of seven crop calendars for stone fruit, almonds, grapes, pomegranates, wheat, summer vegetables, and winter vegetables. The distribution of these calendars is an activity RADP-S has been looking forward to. Careful creation of these calendars occurred during the previous fiscal year. Distribution has been delayed as RADP-S reconsiders the distribution mechanism which was imagined as direct to farmers and is now looking to partner with one or more relevant agricultural businesses who could benefit from the calendars as a form of partnership and promotion of those enterprises.

## **6. GENERAL PROGRAMMATIC:**

**Annual Survey Delay:** The bidding and award of the RADP-S annual survey took longer than anticipated and is expected to begin in February pending vetting approval. As RADP-S evaluated a survey conducted by DCA for livestock, it became clear that additional questions and survey areas would need to be included in the annual survey instrument to gather the comprehensive data required by the instrument.

RADP-S envisions a strategy of project information gathering for the remainder of FY16 that includes 3<sup>rd</sup> party monitoring and evaluation, a more robust in-house M&E function, and a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter survey to supplement monthly and quarterly data gathering.

## **7. GENERAL PROGRAMMATIC:**

**Subcontract modifications:** The original subcontracts for KIPs were awarded in early 2014. In 2015, the subcontracts for a portion of our KIPs were exchanged for a contract vehicle that would be less administratively burdensome for the subcontractor to invoice for. In the coming quarter, RADP-S will review and amend subcontract vehicles to ensure that contractor payment aligns with key deliverables related to the success of the RADP-S program and the direction that the program is presently moving in. An example of one such likely modification is to amend the ADA subcontract to be more inclusive of value chain activities.

**Modification of Quarterly Review:** Moving forward RADP-S will compare all subcontracts against work plan accomplishments on a monthly basis to ensure timely course correction as needed.

## 6.8 Success Story



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**AFGHANISTAN**

### The Beginnings of Women's Entrepreneurship in Uruzgan Province

**\_\_\_\_\_** makes sandwiches for her customers at the local high school and clinic.



"The Agribusiness Empowerment Program gave me the idea to start my own business. I am now able to meet my family's daily needs."



**\_\_\_\_\_** Her husband's death left her with three children to care for and very little economic resources. She could not afford to keep her children in school, sending her son to the market to sell any extra vegetables the family had. Meena found some work washing clothes and dishes for her neighbors. While working for one of her neighbors, she heard about business training provided by the Uruzgan Department of Women's Affairs.

In southern Afghanistan, years of war and insecurity have widowed many women like **\_\_\_\_\_**. Without a male head of household, women ability to leave the home and access economic opportunities. The Regional Agricultural Development Program-South (RADP-S) addresses this issue by working with Departments of Women's Affairs and local girls' high schools in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces. RADP-S's Agribusiness Empowerment Program arms women in basic business skills, information on financing, budgeting, and communications. In addition, the program teaches women about nutrition and improved vegetable cultivation and harvesting techniques. With this set of skills, women can cultivate kitchen gardens as both small business ventures and to feed their families.

**\_\_\_\_\_** graduated from the Agribusiness Empowerment Program and used her knowledge to start her own small business. She created a business plan and presented her idea to friends and neighbors, who provided initial investments into her sandwich making operation. **\_\_\_\_\_** found regular customers at the nearby girls' high school and health clinic. With the money she made, she paid back her friends, and invested in a small stock of flour, cooking oil, and potatoes.

**\_\_\_\_\_** found the Agribusiness Empowerment Program to be a great learning experience and stated, "I now have enough funds to meet my daily needs and my children have returned to school. I am thankful for the ideas that helped me make a better situation for myself."

**Telling Our Story**  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
Washington, DC 20523-1000  
<http://stories.usaid.gov>

## 6.9 December Monthly Report

### I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### I.1 Program Description

The purpose of the Regional Agricultural Development Program-South (RADP-S) is to improve food and economic security for rural Afghans in the provinces of Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan. To accomplish this goal, RADP-S focuses on improving the productivity and profitability of the wheat, high value crops, and livestock value chains, while addressing policy, legal and regulatory constraints affecting value chain development. This agricultural development program supports the consolidation of licit economies to fuel sustainable long term economic growth, including providing alternatives to poppy cultivation.

The implementation approach of RADP-S dovetails with Afghan and U.S. government strategies in its focus on advancing food security, regenerating agribusiness, and increasing agriculture sector jobs and incomes. RADP-S aims to strengthen the capacity of producers, associations, traders, and agribusinesses to respond to market demands; facilitate lasting market linkages between value chain actors; and support an enabling environment that allows the private sector to thrive. The program places the Afghan private sector at the forefront of implementation and addresses key crosscutting issues of women's empowerment, agribusiness value chain facilitation, and alternative development in all facets of the program. Embodying USAID's vision for sustainable Afghan-led development, RADP-S lays the foundation for greater and more socially inclusive growth in the agricultural economy.

#### I.2 Summary of Key Accomplishments during Reporting Period

- 4,311 farmers trained on wheat water management and post-harvest techniques
- Increased the capacity of 2,634 high value crop (HVC) farmers in orchard maintenance, greenhouse vegetable nutrition, vineyard nutrition, and HVC post-harvest techniques
- The Da Waghaz Construction Company provided promotional training for farmers on RADP-S's Zabul demonstration farm on the use and benefits of solar dehydrators in improving the quality of dried crops.
- Introduction of wheat and HVC new technologies including grain moisture testers and fruit and vegetable solar dehydrators
- VFUs reported a total of 48,351 animals medicated, 87,252 animals vaccinated, and 496 animals provided other veterinary services
- 1,206 farmers trained in cattle feed schedules and cattle housing management
- A business-to-business commercial relationship, facilitated by RADP-S, resulted in a 516,000 AFN sale of poultry feed from the Hikmat Poultry Feed Company to the Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughter House.
- 400 women and girls graduated from the Agribusiness Empowerment Program
- Land leveling and construction begins on the DOWA Demonstration Farm

- Eleven agribusinesses throughout the four provinces provide technical expertise and promote their businesses on the radio program
- Mobile theatre performances reach 1,120 spectators on the subject of wheat crop establishment.

### 1.3 Summary of Major Challenges and Lessons Learned

#### ***Coordination with District and Provincial Government***

In December, multiple RADP-S units met directly with district and provincial level government departments to provide project updates and a RADP-S direct contact, rather than relying on coordination that runs through the project's subcontractors. The RADP-S Production and Productivity Unit has increased government coordination over the last quarter through Provincial Field Agents who monitor RADP-S trainings and attend government meetings in coordination with RADP-S subcontractors. This increased coordination has allowed government officials to work more closely with the project in potential district and province level interventions. The Agribusiness Empowerment Program in Helmand province met challenges with school principals requesting payment for allowing the program to take place within their schools. RADP-S's Gender Unit met with the Helmand Provincial Governor and Department of Education to stress the importance of the government's role in ensuring that women and girls are able to increase their knowledge, without administrative fees from the schools. The government officials agreed and have worked with the high schools to ensure smooth implementation.

## 2. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

### 2.1 Wheat Value Chain

#### **Increase the Production and Productivity of Wheat Farmers**

##### ***Increasing Farmer Capacity in Wheat Water Management and Post-Harvest Techniques***

RADP-S master trainers conducted classroom sessions on wheat water management establishment for 4,311 farmers throughout Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces. Wheat water management teaches farmers the seven stages of wheat irrigation, from before planting begins to water needs as the plant matures. Common irrigation problems for wheat are both under watering and overwatering. Under watering leads to dry, wilted leaves and lower grain weight. Farmers tend to overwater by flooding their fields with water, called flood irrigation, which results in uneven water distribution over the wheat crop and can lead to large water loss through evaporation and runoff which transfers pests and diseases. Water conservation using trees, shrubs, and grasses to improve soil quality, reduce erosion, and reduce evaporation were promoted, especially for arid climates in Kandahar and Helmand provinces.

Wheat post-harvest messages were provided to all farmers to stress the importance of harvesting and post-harvesting techniques. Wheat loss for farmers occur during the harvesting and post-harvest stages, after substantial time and material investment has been made over the course of the growing season. Losses during harvesting can be prevented by understanding the proper time



Wheat water management classroom sessions in Joldak, Zabul.

for harvesting, and the use of appropriate harvesting and threshing equipment. Wheat storage is critical to ensuring the wheat grain is available for family consumption or sale throughout the year. Farmers tend to store wheat in burlap bags or woven plastic bags, both of which can be affected by moisture and easily infiltrated by insects or vermin. Master trainers taught farmers the optimal storage temperature and suitable storage containers like plastic bags, buckets, and new technology like Purdue Improved Crop Storage bags that are multi-layered and hermetically sealed.

### ***Approval of Wheat Nutritional Messaging for All Farmers***

In the month of December, nutritional messages for wheat trainings were approved by Directorates of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) in Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces. RADP-S conducted training of trainers (ToTs) for master trainers in Kandahar, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces on the nutrition curriculum. ToTs in Helmand were canceled as a result of continued insecurity in December. RADP-S will hold the nutrition ToTs for Helmand in January. RADP-S anticipates nutrition messages to be incorporated into all demonstration farm trainings in the second quarter.

### ***Training of Trainers in Wheat Grain Moisture Testers***

RADP-S conducted ToTs for master trainers on the use of grain moisture testers in Zabul and Kandahar provinces. Grain moisture testers allow farmers to determine the level of moisture in wheat grain. Grain moisture testers are most important for wheat traders to assess the quality of the grain. Moisture levels at about 12 percent are acceptable, higher levels of moisture in wheat grain leads to rotting when stored, and lower levels translates to a lower quality grain. However, increasing farmer awareness in this technology allows farmers to understand the grain quality demanded by the marketplace. RADP-S will lead demonstrations of grain moisture testers in all four provinces. However, RADP-S will also connect with wheat traders to promote investing in this new technology that would prevent traders from losses as a result of high moisture grain.

### ***Monthly Wheat Producer Targets and Results***

In the month of November, RADP-S trained 4,311 wheat farmers, meeting 120 percent of RADP-S's monthly wheat training target. All trainees have also received lessons in improved post-harvest techniques.

### **December 2015 Wheat Producer Training Targets and Results<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> As per the RADP-S Data Collection Plan, figures are subject to change upon quarterly review.

Performance Indicator		Helmand	Kandahar	Uruzgan	Zabul	Total Results	Target	Achievement
5	Number of farmers trained in improved post-harvesting techniques (Custom)	1,754	1,405	862	290	4,311	3,575	120%
9	Number of individuals who have received US-government supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (4.5.2-7)	1,754	1,405	862	290	4,311	3,575	
10	Number of participants trained through project assisted training events <sup>2</sup>	1,798	1,782	1,094	586	5,206	-	-

## Increase the Commercial Viability of Wheat Agribusinesses

### ***Business Consultation with the Mosmir Improved Seed Company***

The RADP-S Value Chain Unit consulted with the Helmand-based Mosmir Improved Seed Company in December, providing information on RADP-S business opportunities. In October, the company submitted a concept note for demonstration plots showcasing the advantages of improved wheat seeds. RADP-S worked with the company in December to review the RADP-S strategy of cost-shared support for all future programming. The Mosmir Improved Seed Company will review their budget according to RADP-S cost share requirements.

### ***Monthly Wheat Agribusiness Activities Overview***

RADP-S activities with wheat agribusinesses in December are summarized below, along with next steps to be taken by the RADP-S Value Chain Facilitation Unit. RADP-S's Value Chain Unit are in discussion with wheat input suppliers in Kandahar province to provide promotional trainings on RADP-S demonstration farms highlighting the benefits of improved wheat seeds, fertilizer, nutrients, and harvesting equipment sold by the companies.

December 2015 Wheat Agribusiness Activities						
Wheat Agribusiness	Province	Business Growth Area	Activity	Estimated Value of Sales	RADP-S Support	Next Steps
Mosmir Improved Seed Company	Helmand	Promotions	Concept note for improved wheat seed demonstration plots with company for review.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to check-in on budget revisions.
Wheat Agribusiness Portfolio for Year Three						
Sadaqat Sahil Improved Seed Company (SISSCO)	Kandahar	TBD	Evaluating impact of year two partnership and in discussions on year three activities.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S to connect with company on business to farmer training event.
Ahmad Baryali Improved Seeds Company	Kandahar	TBD	Evaluating impact of year two partnership and in discussions on year three activities.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S to connect with company on business to farmer training event.

<sup>2</sup> Indicator 10 measures all participants attending RADP-S training programs, for which there is no set target.

Sardar Zai Improved Seeds Company	Kandahar	TBD	Evaluating impact of year two partnership and in discussions on year three activities.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S to connect with company on business to farmer training event.
Sahrai Loy Kandahar Improved Seeds Company	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S to connect with company on business to farmer training event.
Helmand Etihad Agricultural and Seedling Company	Helmand	Promotions	Reviewed concept note and budget for improved wheat seed demonstration plots.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist and HEASC to follow up on budget revisions

## Major Planned Activities for the Next Month

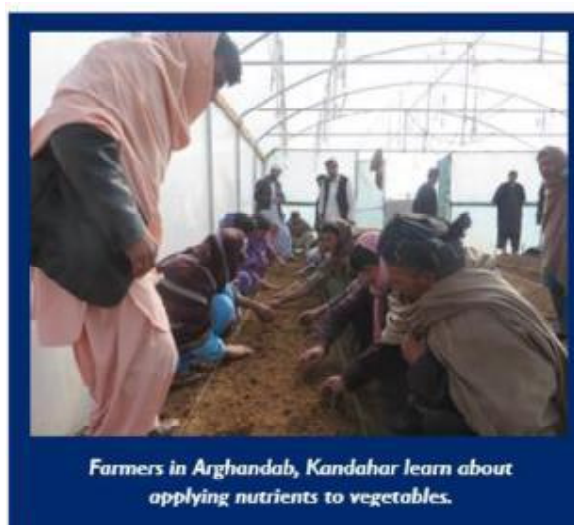
- Complete nutrition ToTs in Helmand and grain tester ToTs in Helmand and Uruzgan
- Wheat Integrated Pest Management and Weed Control Classroom Training
- Wheat Post-Harvest Messages on all Demonstration Farms
- Wheat Input Supplier Business to Farmer Promotional Events on Kandahar Province Demonstration Farms
- Business Growth Conference in Kandahar with Small and Medium Wheat Enterprises

## 2.2 High Value Crops Value Chain

### Increase the Production and Productivity of High Value Crop Farmers

#### ***Increasing Farmer Capacity in Orchard, Vegetable, and Vineyard Cultivation and Post-Harvest Messaging***

During the reporting period, RADP-S master trainers conducted high value crop trainings in orchard plant maintenance, greenhouse vegetable nutrition, vineyard nutrition, and HVC post-harvest techniques. In total, 2,634 farmers were taught a variety of new skills to increase the production of high value crops. Classroom sessions in orchard plant maintenance stressed healthy trees structures and training techniques to ensure heavy crops can be supported without breakage. Master trainers taught farmers to remove low, dead, and diseased branches to encourage healthy growth and the best time for pruning, before the spring season. Pruning techniques are especially important for ensuring even light penetration, critical for improving fruit quality and size.



On-farm demonstration sessions in greenhouse vegetable nutrition taught correct application methods and rates for fertilizer, animal manure, and various nutrients. The importance of nitrogen application for plant growth was communicated to farmers, with note of the adverse effects possible from over-application such as leaf discoloration. The use of animal manure to improve soil quality, increase water absorption, and regulate soil temperature was also an important lesson. Similar lessons in plant nutrients were applied to hand-on demonstrations for vineyard plant nutrition trainings, with an emphasis on the role of phosphorus in root growth and potassium in increasing disease resistance. Safe fertilizing handling and storage rules were given to farmers to prevent personal and environmental harm.

#### ***Business to Farmer Promotional Event Introduction Solar Dehydrators***



During the reporting period, RADP-S introduced farmers to solar dehydrators in Zabul province in coordination with the Da Waghaz Construction Company. The Da Waghaz Construction Company is based in Kandahar and provides high quality solar dehydrators to the southern market. The Da Waghaz Construction Company introduced farmers to the advantages of solar dehydrators for fruit and vegetable drying. In southern Afghanistan, fruits and vegetables are sun dried on a flat surface, exposing the fruit to dust, dirt, and insects and reducing their value in the marketplace. Solar dryers expose fruits and

vegetables to sunlight within a covered and sanitary environment. High value crops commonly grown in southern Afghanistan, like grapes, figs, apricots, and plums, lend themselves well to drying and have demand in the local marketplace. In the absence of stable electricity and cold storage facilities, drying fruits and vegetable represents a unique market opportunity for farmers.

The Da Waghaz Construction Company promoted their solar dehydrators which can dry up to 10 kilograms of fruit in an environment that would increase the quality of the final product. Local farmers watched a demonstration of the various components of the solar dehydrator. The company provided each farmers with their contact information and location so that farmers would know where to request the equipment. Representatives from the Zabul DAIL and provincial development assembly were present to learn more about this new technology and to find ways to promote the solar dehydrators to the larger farming community.

#### ***Installation and Introduction of T-trellising Technology and Business***

In December, T-trellises were installed on Kandahar and Helmand demonstration farms. Installation on Uruzgan and Zabul demonstration farms will occur in January. Utilizing t-trellises are important for grape cultivation in southern Afghanistan. Traditionally, grape vines are draped on walls or on dirt mounds, which increases the potential for pest and disease. T-trellises move the grape vine off of the ground, expose vine foliage to more light, and allow for integrated pest

management practices. In January, the Ahmad Baryali Improved Seeds Company will lead promotional trainings on their T-trellising equipment on RADP-S demonstration farms, promote the advantages of T-trellising systems, and inform farmers of the location and availability of their services. This business to farmer promotional event allows the company to introduce their products directly to an audience invested in improving the productivity of grapes.

#### ***Developing High Value Crop Nutritional Messaging for All Farmers***

During the reporting period, high value crop nutrition messages were approved by all Directorates of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock in Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, and Zabul. ToTs were conducted in all provinces, except Helmand province due to ongoing insecurity. In January, Helmand ToTs for master trainers will be held. It is anticipated that messages will be shared on RADP-S demonstration farms beginning in February.

#### ***Monthly High Value Crop Producer Targets and Results***

In the month of December, RADP-S trained 2,634 HVC farmers in orchard plant nutrition, vegetable nutrition, vineyard maintenance, and improved HVC techniques. All trainees counted under Indicator 9 have also been provided trainings in improved post-harvest techniques, and therefore Indicator 5 and 9 results are the same.

<b>December 2015 High Value Crop Producer Training Targets and Results<sup>3</sup></b>								
Performance Indicator		Helmand	Kandahar	Uruzgan	Zabul	Total Results	Target	Achievement
5	Number of farmers trained in improved post-harvesting techniques (Custom)	1,021	440	357	636	2,634	2,695	98%
9	Number of individuals who have received US-government supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (4.5.2-7)	1,021	440	357	636	2,634	2,695	98%
10	Number of participants trained through project assisted training events <sup>4</sup>	1,227	1,992	492	1,141	4,852	-	-

## **Increase the Commercial Viability of High Value Crop Agribusinesses**

#### ***Roots Agriculture and Livestock Services Company Mobilizes Farmers***

The Roots Agriculture and Livestock Services (RALS) Company mobilized farmers in Dand, Daman, Arghandab, and Panjwai districts of Kandahar province during the reporting period. RALS conducted coordination meetings with the Kandahar DAIL and each district's District Development Assembly (DDA), Community Development Council (CDC), and community shuras to inform them of the upcoming promotional trainings and benefits for local farmers. Each

<sup>3</sup> As per the RADP-S Data Collection Plan, all figures are subject to change upon quarterly review.

<sup>4</sup> Indicator 10 measures all participants attending RADP-S training programs, for which there is no set target.

government and community body provided approval of the promotional trainings and provided recommendations on local farmers. Utilizing these recommendations and in consultation with village elders, RALS selected farmers who are cultivating orchard crops or are interested in establishing an orchard for trainings in high-density saplings and new techniques in orchard grafting. RALS Company is one of few companies in southern Afghanistan that provide certified saplings and information on sapling mother stocks. Mobilization will continue into January for RALS.

### **Monthly High Value Crop Agribusiness Activities Overview**

RADP-S activities with high value crop agribusiness and associations are summarized below along with next steps for the RADP-S Value Chain Facilitation Unit and each company.

<b>December 2015 High Value Crop Agribusiness Activities</b>						
<b>HVC Agribusiness</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>Business Growth Area</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Estimated Value of Sales</b>	<b>RADP-S Support</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
Roots Agriculture Livestock Services	Kandahar	Promotions	RADP-S evaluated the RALS demonstration plot for environmental compliance. RALS prepared the land for planting.	N/A	Technical Assistances	RADP-S and RALS to coordinate upcoming promotional trainings in January and February 2016.
<b>High Value Crop Agribusiness Portfolio for Year Three</b>						
<b>HVC Agribusiness</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>Business Growth Area</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Estimated Value of Sales</b>	<b>RADP-S Support</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
Kandahari Women Handicraft and Agriculture Company	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Cost Support	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up on any Kandahar Exhibition linkages.
Negin Sang Commercial Pvt Ltd	Kandahar	Promotions	RADP-S provided technical review of Negin Sang's proposed activities with pomegranate producers and women's associations in southern Afghanistan.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist following up on revised budget and scope.
Afghan Women Self-Sufficient Association	Kabul	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kabul AgFair.	N/A	Cost Support	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up on the status of Kabul AgFair linkages.
Amin Karim Box Factory	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Cost Support and Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up on any Kandahar Exhibition linkages.
Zarghon Badloon Agriculture Company	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Cost Support	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up on any Kandahar Exhibition linkages.

Farah Farhat Faizi Agricultural Products Processing Company	Kabul	Promotions and firm-to-firm linkages	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition. RADP-S facilitated business-to-business meeting.	N/A	Cost Support and Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up on any further Kandahar Exhibition linkages.
Hikmat Ubaid Fresh Fruit Trading Company	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Cost Support	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up on any Kandahar Exhibition linkages.
Afghan Red Pomegranate Company	Kandahar	Promotions and firm-to-firm linkage	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition. RADP-S facilitated a business to business linkage with the Kehnosha Non-Alcoholic Beverages Company.	N/A	Cost Support	RADP-S to follow-up in September during pomegranate harvesting season.
Abozar Agribusiness Women Company	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Cost Support	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up on any Kandahar Exhibition linkages.
Zanan Tawanmand Social Company	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Cost Support	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up on any Kandahar Exhibition linkages.
Daman and Dand Districts Farmers Association	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Cost Support	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up on any Kandahar Exhibition linkages.

### Major Planned Activities for the Next Month

- Solar Dehydrator Business to Farmer Promotional Events in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan
- T-trellising Business to Farmer Promotional Events in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan
- Low Tunnel Business to Farmer Promotional Events in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan
- Begin high value crop classroom curriculum in Marja and Garmsir districts of Helmand province
- Continue mobilization of farmers for the Roots Agriculture and Livestock Services Company promotional trainings
- Business Growth Conference in Kandahar with Small and Medium HVC Enterprises
- On-Farm Demonstration Trainings in Orchard Establishment and Post-Harvest Messaging
- On-Farm Demonstration Trainings in Vegetable IPM/Weed Control and Post-Harvest Messaging
- On-Farm Demonstration Trainings in Vineyard Establishment and Post-Harvest Messaging

## 2.3 Livestock Value Chain

### **Increase Incomes from Livestock**

#### ***Farmer Extension Groups***

RADP-S key implementing partner Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) increased the capacity of livestock farmers in feeding schedules for cattle and cattle housing management. In total, 1,206 farmers, 572 men and 634 women were trained in two sessions. Trainings in livestock feed promoted nutritious and supplemental feed for cattle. Differences in feed schedules during the life of a cow and especially for pregnant cows were highlighted. Trainings in housing management taught livestock owners housing needs during the summer and winter seasons. Because of climatic differences in Uruzgan and Zabul provinces, compared to Helmand and Kandahar, temporary housing structures for cattle are stressed to prevent animal loss.

#### ***Livestock Health Services***

In December, 58 RADP-S-supported veterinary field units (VFUs) provided animal health services throughout 15 targeted districts of Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan provinces. RADP-S supported VFUs vaccinated 100,288 animals, medicated 48,621 animals, and provided other animal health services to 903 animals. DCA continued to monitor the status of the VFUs and provide technical feedback on areas of improvement. DCA is supporting one paravet at the Charikar Veterinary Training and Support Center who is set to start operating his VFU in the second quarter.



*DCA inspects a Qalat VFU in Zabul province.*

#### ***Training of Trainers on Poultry Extension***

DCA conducted a five day training of trainers on poultry extension from December 6-10. DCA Extension Officers from all RADP-S target districts participated in the ToT which covered chicken raising, vaccinations and medications, feed schedules, and chicken farming systems. DCA will begin poultry trainings for Farmer Extension Groups in quarter two. DCA will target women beneficiaries, who are interested in chicken farming and have the potential to combine efforts to produce chickens for small scale commercial production. Poultry production represents an accessible and cost effective avenue for women in southern Afghanistan to engage in commercial agriculture. Women are traditionally responsible for animal care and the low input costs for chicken raising allow more women to participate. RADP-S will continue to support women trainees who are interested in small scale commercial production.

#### ***Refresher Training for Paravets***

During the reporting period, DCA conducted a four day refresher course on clinical pharmacology for 13 paravets in conjunction with the Sandia National Laboratories organization. Clinical pharmacology lessons focused on the administration of drugs, determining proper dosage based on animal weight, antibiotic therapy, and proper use of anesthetic and sedative drugs. In

addition another five day course on clinical skills was held for 16 paravets. Clinical skills review included blood transfusion techniques, neonatal diagnosis and treatment fluid therapy, and proper injection techniques.

#### **Monthly Livestock Producer Targets and Results**

In the month of November, RADP-S trained 2 new livestock farmers through FEGs and 1,206 participants overall. The DCA training curriculum has rolled over from year two, and therefore, the number of new trainees counted in Indicator 9 is significantly lower as the courses retains the same cohort from year two into year three.

<b>December 2015 Livestock Farmer Training Targets and Results<sup>5</sup></b>								
Performance Indicator		Helmand	Kandahar	Uruzgan	Zabul	Total Results	Target	Achievement
9	Number of individuals who have received US-government supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (4.5.2-7)	0	2	0	0	2	1,037	<1%
10	Number of participants trained through project assisted training events <sup>6</sup>	369	440	170	227	1,206	-	-

### **Increasing the Commercial Viability of Livestock Agribusinesses**

#### **Business-to-Business Linkage Strengthens between Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughter House and Hikmat Poultry Feed Company**

In November, the RADP-S Value Chain Unit facilitated a business-to-business linkage between the Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughterhouse Company and the Hikmat Poultry Feed Company. The Afghan Sadaqat company imports 50 kilogram bags of feed from Pakistan at a price of 2,400 AFN (\$37 USD) per bag. The Hikmat Poultry Feed Company sells 50 kilogram bags of feed at 1,900 AFN (\$29 USD) each. The Afghan Sadaqat Company bought 150 bags of feed as a trial consignment in November to test on their chicks. The Afghan Sadaqat Company was satisfied with the chicken feed quality and reached a deal for 410 bags of feed, valued at 516,000 AFN (\$7,938 USD) in December. RADP-S will continue to monitor future sales and provide both companies with other opportunities to collaborate with RADP-S.

#### **Monthly Livestock Agribusiness Activities Overview**

RADP-S activities with livestock agribusiness are summarized below along with next steps for the RADP-S Value Chain Facilitation Unit and each company.

#### **December 2015 Livestock Agribusiness Activities**

<sup>5</sup> As per the RADP-S Data Collection Plan, all figures are subject to change upon quarterly review.

<sup>6</sup> Indicator 10 measures all participants attending RADP-S training programs, for which there is no set target.

Livestock Agribusiness	Province	Business Growth Area	Activity	Estimated Value of Sales	RADP-S Support	Next Steps
Roots Agricultural and Livestock Services Company	Kandahar	Promotions	Promotional trainings for farmers on high density saplings and orchard cultivation.	N/A	Cost-Shared Grant and Technical Assistance	Company to continue farmer mobilization in January.
Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughterhouse	Kandahar	Business-to-Business Linkage	Supported business-to-business linkage with the Hikmat Poultry Feed Company	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up other B2B opportunities.
Hikmat Poultry Feed Company	Kandahar	Firm-Firm Linkage	RADP-S facilitated a business-to-business connection with the Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughterhouse.	516,000 AFN	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up other B2B opportunities.
<b>Livestock Agribusiness Portfolio for Year Three</b>						
Mostamand Etihad Pvt Ltd	Kandahar	TBD	Evaluating impact of year two partnership and in discussions on year three activities.	N/A	Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to hold follow-up meeting.
Ahmad Shahi Agriculture Chicken Farm	Kandahar	Promotions and firm-to-firm linkages	Supported exposure visits to poultry businesses in Jalalabad City of Nangarhar province.	N/A	Cost-shared Grant and Technical Assistance	RADP-S Value Chain Specialists to follow-up on impact of promotional trainings and site visits.
Rahat Company Ltd	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Cost Support	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up on any Kandahar Exhibition linkages.
Yaran Ice Cream	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Cost Support	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up on any Kandahar Exhibition linkages.
Afghan Fatimi Poultry and Dairy Production	Kandahar	Promotions	Supported cost of company promotional materials and booth at the Kandahar National Exhibition.	N/A	Cost Support	RADP-S Value Chain Specialist to follow up on any Kandahar Exhibition linkages.

### Major Planned Activities for the Next Month

- Conduct FEG trainings on poultry extension
- Identify new FEG locations through consultations with district governors, community development councils, and district development assemblies
- Conduct a Fodder Bank Assessment in Zabul Province
- Conduct refresher trainings for paravets in poultry health
- Business Growth Conference in Kandahar with Small and Medium Livestock Enterprises

### 2.4 Enabling Environment

### ***National Rice Production Policy Drafting Sessions***

In December, RADP-S attended three consultation meetings on the National Rice Production Policy along with MAIL Heads of Extension, Irrigation, Research, and Plan, Policy, and Strategic Coordination. The meetings were led by the MAIL Extension Directorate and the Japan International Cooperation Agency. RADP-S developed the strategy template to be used for the development of the rice production policy. The strategy template stresses constraints and opportunity identification in the rice sector. In addition, intervention strategies must each highlight economic and social influences, as well as connected monitoring and evaluation considerations. RADP-S will continue to contribute as requested on the development of the rice policy.

### ***National Irrigation Policy Reviewed***

At the request of the MAIL Directorate of Plan, Policy, and Strategic Coordination, the Enabling Environment Unit (EEU) reviewed and submitted the National Irrigation Policy to MAIL. Prior analysis of constraints in the existing national irrigation policy were utilized in the review. Some of the RADP-S's recommendations included:

- A comprehensive social impact assessment to be completed before rehabilitation and new activities are carried out on irrigation structures to mitigate negative impacts.
- Promote efficient water use techniques, such as sprinkler and drip irrigation.
- Introduce raised bed cultivation for growing cereals in districts with high wheat and barley cultivation records.
- Encourage the use of solar energy pumps where flows in rivers are abundant. Mobile units could be shared among several farmers and transported from one area to another.
- Encourage good governance practices in irrigation water management to ensure sustainable use of irrigation water.
- Promote the practice of timely application of irrigation water among farmers.
- Promote safe use of agrochemicals among farmers and irrigation projects/programs to ensure prevention of water pollution.

RADP-S will continue advising on the National Irrigation Policy at the request of MAIL. Irrigation policies are especially relevant for RADP-S target provinces, where drought and water shortages result in low levels of wheat and high value crop production.

### **Major Planned Activities for the Next Month**

- Coordinate constraints analysis review with RADP-North and RADP-West
- Consultation meetings on the National Rice Production Policy

## **2.5 Cross-cutting Themes**

### **2.5.1 Gender**

#### ***Agribusiness Empowerment Program***

In December, 400 women and girls in six high schools and the four provincial DOWAs graduated from the Agribusiness Empowerment Program. The women and girls completed a curriculum that included basic business skills, communications and negotiation, access to finance, nutrition, vegetable cultivation and harvesting, and greenhouse technology. At the end of the program, the women and girls presented business plans developed with their new business acumen. RADP-S will follow up with the graduates to connect them with other RADP-S agribusiness opportunities. RADP-S is also in discussion with the Promote Women in the Economy project on creating a pipeline for RADP-S women trainees to access opportunities in the agriculture sector with their specialized training.

#### ***Mobilization for Second Round Agribusiness Empowerment Program***

RADP-S's Gender Unit and key implementing partner ADA began discussions during the reporting period on the selection of new beneficiaries for the second round of Agribusiness Empowerment Program trainees to begin in January. In coordination with the DOWAs and local women's groups, women and girls who have shown an interest in starting their own business will be selected for the program.

#### ***Kandahar DOWA Demonstration Farm Kick-Off Meeting***

On December 3, RADP-S's Gender Unit and Production and Productivity Unit held a kick-off meeting with the selected company to begin construction on the Kandahar DOWA Demonstration Farm. The construction timeline was reviewed and agreed upon by all parties. In the month of December, the construction company configured the site layout and began leveling the land.

### **Major Planned Activities for the Next Month**

- Begin second round Agribusiness Empowerment Program
- DOWA Demonstration Farm Groundbreaking Ceremony
- Installation of greenhouses in girls high schools and DOWAs

#### **2.5.2 Communications and Outreach**

##### ***“Better Cultivation, Better Livestock” Radio Program***

During the reporting period, 20 broadcasts of the RADP-S “Better Cultivation, Better Livestock” radio program were aired in Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces. A total of 364 calls were received and 171 taken answered on-air by agricultural experts, DAIL extension agents, RADP-S technical specialists, and local business owners. In December, radio shows discussed: fertilizer for vegetable cultivation, livestock Newcastle Disease, vegetable fertilizer application, pomegranate storage techniques, and wheat plant fertilizer application. RADP-S invited 11 agribusinesses across the four provinces to join in radio programs in order to promote their businesses, products, and showcase their expertise alongside RADP-S specialists. Listeners were able to ask questions on the technical topic along with questions directly related to each company's products. Below is a list of companies that promoted their businesses on the radio program.

December 2015 Agribusiness Guests			
	Date	Company	Business Type
Kandahar Province	Dec.15	Sahrai Brothers Group	Input Supplier
	Dec. 22	Afghan Red Pomegranates	Processor
	Dec. 29	Saeede Sadat Group	Input Supplier
Helmand Province	Dec. 15	Helmand Farm Service Center	Input Supplier
	Dec. 22	Haji Talib Fresh Fruit Limited	Fruit Trader
	Dec. 29	Bost Improved Seed and Fertilizer Company	Input Supplier
Zabul Province	Dec. 15	Naseeb Gulzar Seeds and Chemical Company	Input Supplier
	Dec. 22	Zabul Brothers Limited	Fruit Trader
	Dec. 29	Naseeb Gulzar Seeds and Chemical Company	Input Supplier
Uruzgan Province	Dec. 15	Mohammad Shakir Agriculture seeds and Agrochemical Wholesale	Input Supplier
	Dec. 22	Tirin Kowt Cold Storage Facilities	Fruit Traders

#### ***“Women and Agricultural Change” Radio Program***

Eight episodes of the thirty minute “Women and Agricultural Change” radio program were aired in Helmand and Kandahar provinces during the reporting period. The radio program received 88 calls, of which 32 were answered on-air by RADP-S Gender Specialists, DOWA representatives, and community guests relevant to the topic. Topics highlighted International Human Rights Day, nutrition, and business leadership. RADP-S aired two radio programs on nutrition, one focusing on the benefits of specific nutrients and the other on the advantages of a diet rich in vitamins. For the nutrition program in Kandahar province, a Nutrition Specialist with the Kandahar Health Department was invited and in Helmand Province, a Nutrition Specialist with the Helmand Health Department appeared on the show. The specialists not only stressed the importance of nutrition messages, but also provided information on community resources available to families facing malnutrition or looking for more information on the topic. Business leadership programs were attended by a local business woman in Helmand and a guest from the Assistant of Afghan Women New Hopes Organization. Both guests provided personal accounts of their own experiences in leadership roles and important skills for business women to strengthen.

#### ***Public Short Announcements***

Publish short announcements (PSA) in the month of December followed the crop calendar and women’s radio topics. As the radio stations move towards a focus on multiple components of the RADP-S value chains, RADP-S will incorporate a greater emphasis on business linkages and inclusion of agribusiness professionals. RADP-S is connecting with businesses interested in using the RADP-S program for promotional opportunities and will engage these businesses in PSA spots as well.

**“Better Cultivation, Better Livestock”  
Radio Program**

- Vegetable weed control
- Wheat fertilizer time and rate
- Livestock babesiosis disease
- Effect of seed rate on wheat production
- Vegetable nutrition
- Vegetable nutrition 2
- Orchard post-harvest management 1
- Orchard post-harvest management 2

**“Women and Agricultural Change”  
Radio Program**

- Celebrating human rights day
- The classification of nutrients
- Food containing important vitamins
- Leadership skills in business

***Mobile Theatre Performances***

During the reporting period, 13 mobile theatre performances were conducted on wheat crop establishment, complimenting wheat planting season in southern Afghanistan. The show provided information on selecting leveled sites with access to water, improved and certified wheat seeds appropriate for winter planting, planting rates, and water irrigation. About 1,120 spectators enjoyed the performance. RADP-S works to select new, rural locations for each month's performances to give agricultural information in hard to reach districts.

**Major Planned Activities for the Next Month**

- Coordinate agribusiness guests for the “Better Cultivation, Better Livestock” and “Women and Agricultural Change” radio programs
- Conduct mobile theatre performance on wheat crop establishment in Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces

**2.5.3 Monitoring and Evaluation**

***Monitoring and Evaluation Site Visits***

During the reporting period, a total of 104 site visits were planned for Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces. Out of 104 planned site visits, 49 were conducted and 55 sites were not conducted as a result of security challenges. In Kandahar, out of 33 planned site visits, 14 were conducted. In Helmand, out of 32 planned site visits, 11 were conducted as a result of escalating insecurity. In Uruzgan, out of 19 planned site visits, 11 were conducted. In Zabul, out of 20 site visits, 12 were conducted. RADP-S M&E officers noted that almost no children were present at any training event, with RADP-S subcontractors following strict guidelines provided at the end of last year. M&E officers noted that trainings were not conducted on time, with farmers arriving late. RADP-S will work with community mobilizers to address this issue with farmers.

**Major Planned Activities for the Next Month**

- 119 site visits planned for January 2016
- Selection of Annual Household Survey Contractor

### 3. PARTNER & STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

#### 3.1 USAID and Non-USAID Funded Projects

##### ***Kabul***

In December, the RADP-S Value Chain Unit attended the Women and Trade: Opportunities and Challenges in Afghanistan Conference, hosted by the Afghan Trade and Revenue Project (ATAR). The conference brought together business women interested in exchanging ideas, experiences, and available opportunities for business growth. RADP-S provided information on its work with women's associations and its business growth plan model to meet the needs of women's businesses. The conference was also attended by the Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA), UN Women, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, and the Promote Women in the Economy project.

On December 12, the RADP-S Gender Advisor met with the Promote Women in the Economy (WIE) Workforce Development Team Lead to discuss areas of collaboration. WIE has set up an office in Kandahar City and looks forward to coordinating with RADP-S in the agriculture sector. Initial discussions were held on how to connect RADP-S Agribusiness Empowerment Program graduates with WIE opportunities.

#### 3.2 Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

##### ***Kandahar***

On December 6, RADP-S key implementing partners ADA and DCA attended the Provincial Development Council meeting where they provided an overview of current and upcoming activities. The Provincial Governor requested project collaboration in providing laboratory services for farmers, which RADP-S will explore in conjunction with its agribusiness partners.

##### ***Helmand***

On December 19, DCA's Provincial Coordinator met with the Deputy Governor and DAIL representatives. DAIL and government officials requested more targeted support of the Kuchi population in Helmand. The Kuchi are nomadic animal herders who are depend on their livestock for their livelihoods. Interventions in animal health and engagement with local markets will be discussed are under consideration. The RADP-S Field Agent met with the Helmand DAIL to provide updates on training activities and encourage DAIL extension officers to attend trainings.

##### ***Zabul***

On December 22, DCA attended a meeting with the Zabul DAIL, providing an activity update on DCA's implementation in Zabul province. Provincial council members were also present to provide information on farmer perceptions of activities in the province. ADA provided the DAIL Director with updates on training numbers and training topics for the upcoming month. RADP-S's Field Agent also held a meeting with the DAIL Director to introduce RADP-S nutrition topics, receiving approval for the training materials.

***Uruzgan***

On December 20, DCA and ADA attended the Provincial Development Council meeting in Uruzgan providing an update on RADP-S activities and upcoming training sessions. RADP-S's Field Agent in Uruzgan met with the acting DAIL Director to provide an overview of training topics for the month and presented the RADP-S nutrition messages and the goal of the project related to nutritional health.